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Josephine the French Rose

Comic artwork by Yumiko Igarashi
Story by Kaoru Ochiai

Josephine the French Rose

Manga art by Yumiko Igarashi

Story by Kaoru Ochiai

Josephine the French Rose (II)

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About this story: Born as the daughter of poor nobles on the French colony island of Martinique, Rose is told about her future by Eliama,
a fortune teller, and later marries Viscount Alexandre Beauharnais of Paris. Agathon, who has been serving Rose since childhood and is
actually a half-brother, accompanies her to the Beauharnais estate. Rose gives birth to a son and a daughter, but her husband's lover plots against her and the couple ends up separated. What will happen to Rose now? -This is a work of fiction based on fact.

Watching the flamboyant royals of Versailles, something clicked inside Mademoiselle
I'm going to become a part of that group
Or rather, I'll be at their forefront
I believe what Eliama said
You'll become a woman
who's even greater than the queen

薔薇のジョゼフィーヌ

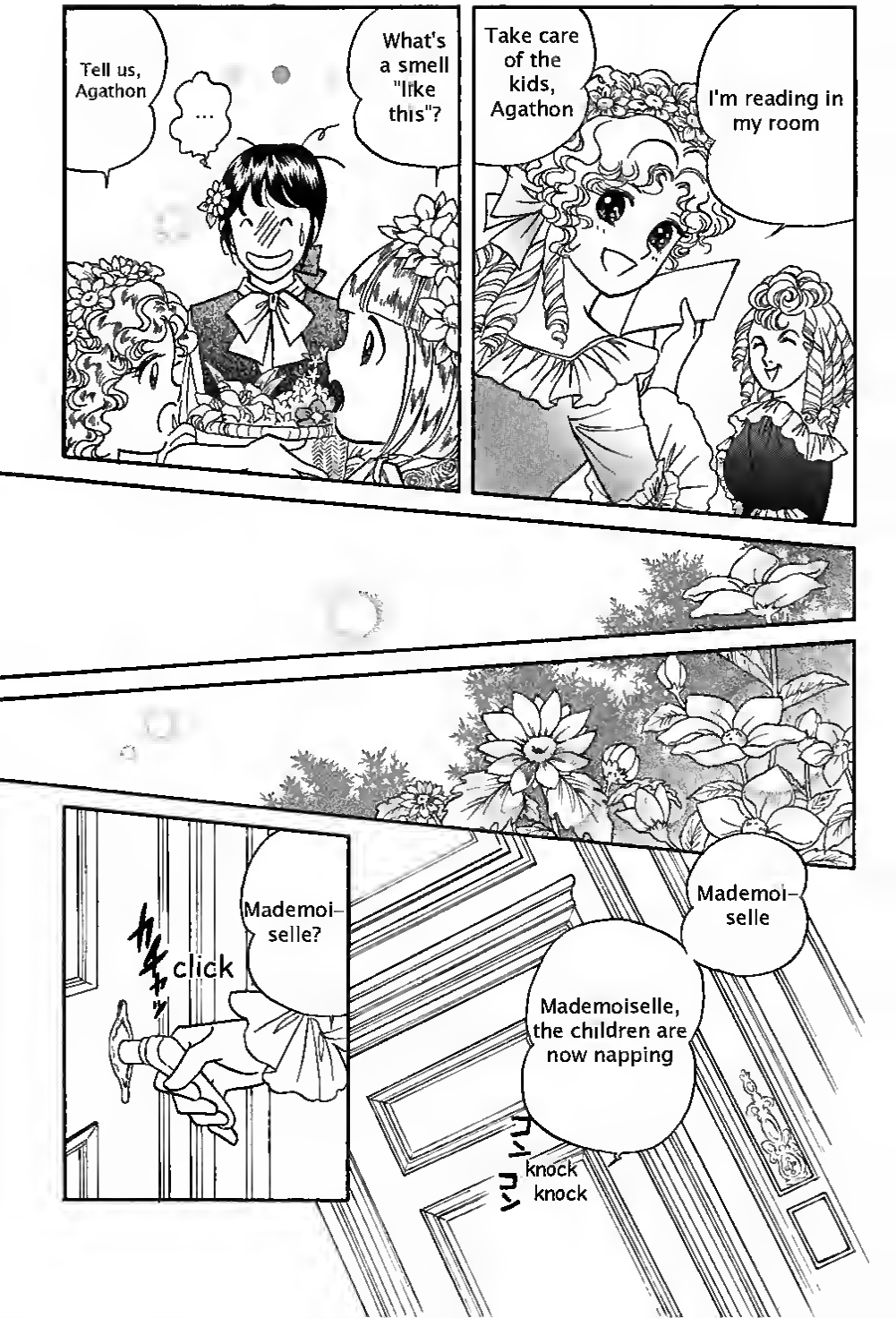
Part II

Josephine the French Rose

You have a letter from your mother in Martinique
Rose
Mademoiselle had settled down completely in Fontainebleau
It had taken months for the letter to reach her

Letter? About what?
And Hortense had turned five
Eugene was now seven
Letter? About what?
It's been on such a long journey
For your mother, from your grandmother
You're always making mistakes that Agathon fixes, too
You can't even read yet
Yes, let's see
Let's see, mama

Ah, I can smell the sunshine
A letter from Martinique
What kind of smell's that?
Like this!
?
?


Tell us, Agathon
...
What's a smell "like this"?
Take care of the kids, Agathon
I'm reading in my room
Mademoi-selle?
click
Mademoi-selle
Mademoiselle, the children are now napping
knock knock

sob
sob
sob
Mlle. Fran-coise?
wail
あぁーんっ
My sweet little sister!
sob
sob
Francoise ...she died
Bad news?

I haven't been back in almost a decade!
Boo hoo
Father's in a bad state, too
with the kids
I'm going back to Martinique
waa waa
to our island that smells of the sun
Let's go back, Mademoiselle. I'll accompany you
but for such sad news from home
Too far away from Paris
it hadn't been easy to go back

You're going back to the island?
and have Agathon see his mother Marion
I want to see my parents. Show them their grandkids
It's too dangerous with such small children
As your aunt I won't allow it
clomp clomp
Say something, dear

Martinique is in the Caribbean, and there are pirates
ships have been attacked
by pirates of the Caribbean
so it goes
Dear
cough
poke
...anyway, it's full of danger
You should recon-sider
They'll enjoy it
they're my kids
The kids will be afraid of the sea
They're also my kids

Long time no see, Rose
You're looking well father, Mme. Desirée
Alexandre
Have you forgotten your papa?
good-looking, aren't I?
huh?
ほ?ん~ん

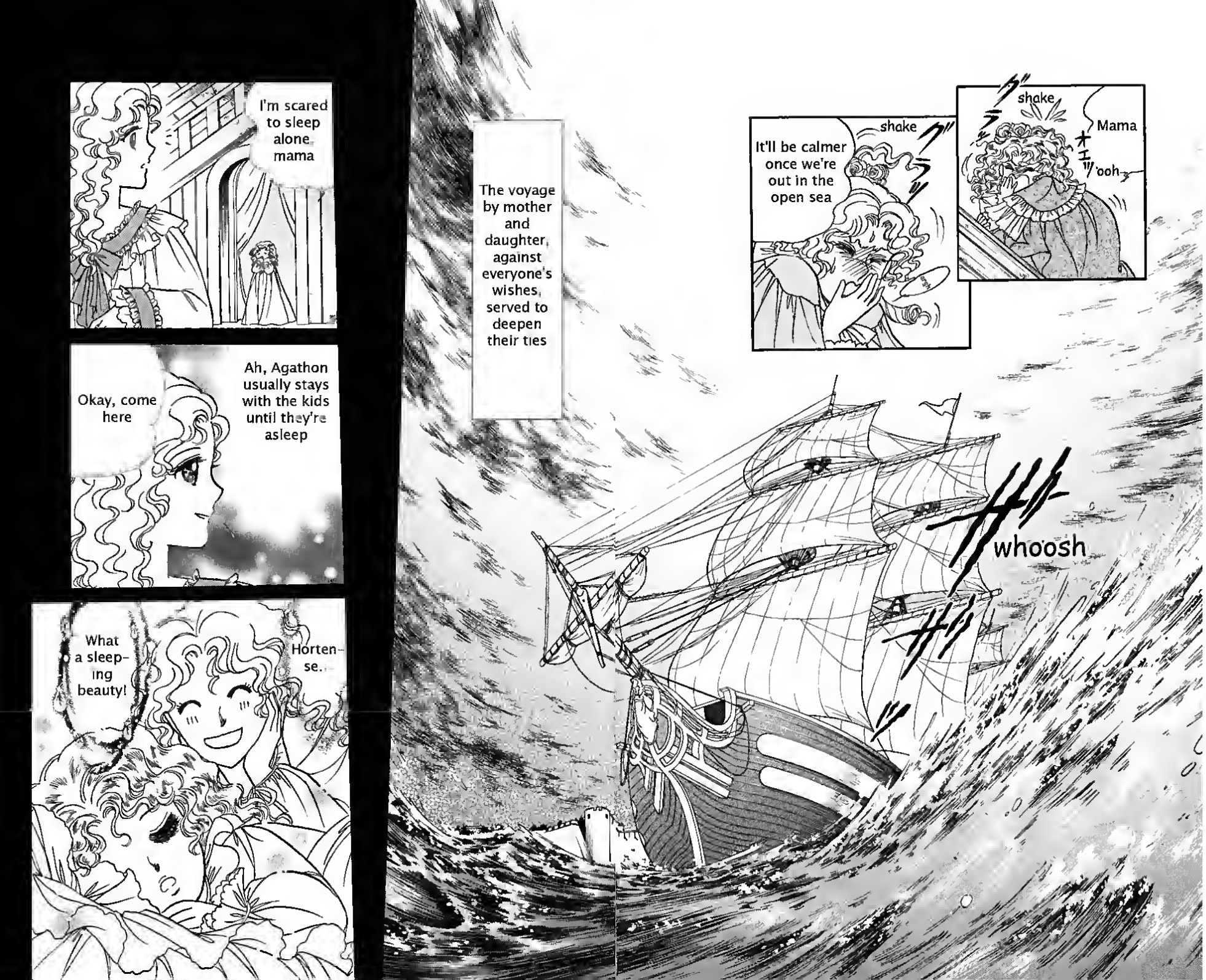
Eugene! Hortense!
Papa
Papa
I'd like to take them for a while
Mother misses her grand-children
What brings you out here from Paris?
So cool
Tell your mother that we'll visit her when we're back
Not possible. I'm taking them home to Martinique

Eugene should start getting a proper education, don't you think, Father?
Rude as always!
Eugene is our heir
There's nothing in Martinique for him
Well, yes..
Just brats sucking on sugar canes wandering around
I'll take Eugene for a while, educate him as a noble
Then it's decided. You go back with Hortense
Auntie
I agree with Alexandre
We're going home together
I won't let you do that

It'll be good for his father to discipline him while you're gone
Thank you Mme. Desirée
I'm sorry
Eugene's already seven
You and Agathon are so easy on him
heh heh
he can barely read yet
...All right
by on the condition that Agathon stays close to Eugene
Fine
Mademoi-selle?
You're going out to sea alone with Mlle. Hortense?

I know you wanted to go home, too
I'm sorry, though
It's okay, Agathon, you worry too much
I'll protect Master Eugene in your place
Mademoiselle!
It's really too much!
Please. If something were to happen at sea, I..
I will go to Master Alexandre's estate but please stay here with Mlle. Hortense
I...

I know you're concerned about us, but...
I must visit Francoise's grave and apologize for not bringing her to Paris
Spring 1788
Made-moiselle departed for Martini-que
con-cern weig-hing heavily in my heart
I had no words to stop her
Father, too...if I don't go now,
I may never see him again
Please allow us to go


I'm scared to sleep alone, mama
Okay, come here
Ah, Agathon usually stays with the kids until they're asleep
What a sleeping beauty!
Hortense..
The voyage by mother and daughter, against everyone's wishes, served to deepen their ties
It'll be calmer once we're out in the open sea
shake
shake
Mama
ooh
whoosh

shake
It'll be calmer once we're out in the open sea
shake
Mama
ooh
whoosh

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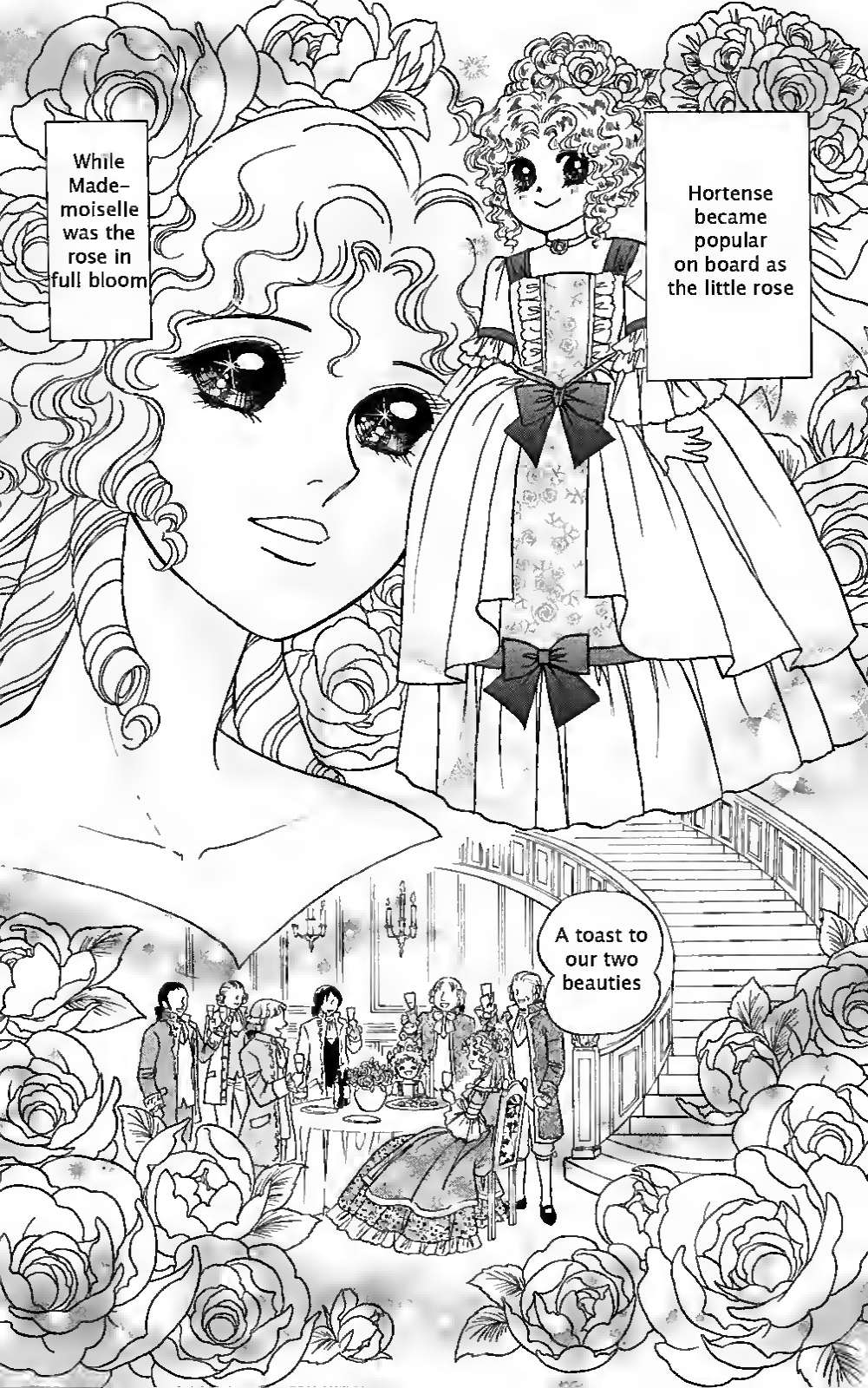

While Made-moiselle was the rose in full bloom
Hortense became popular on board as the little rose
A toast to our two beauties

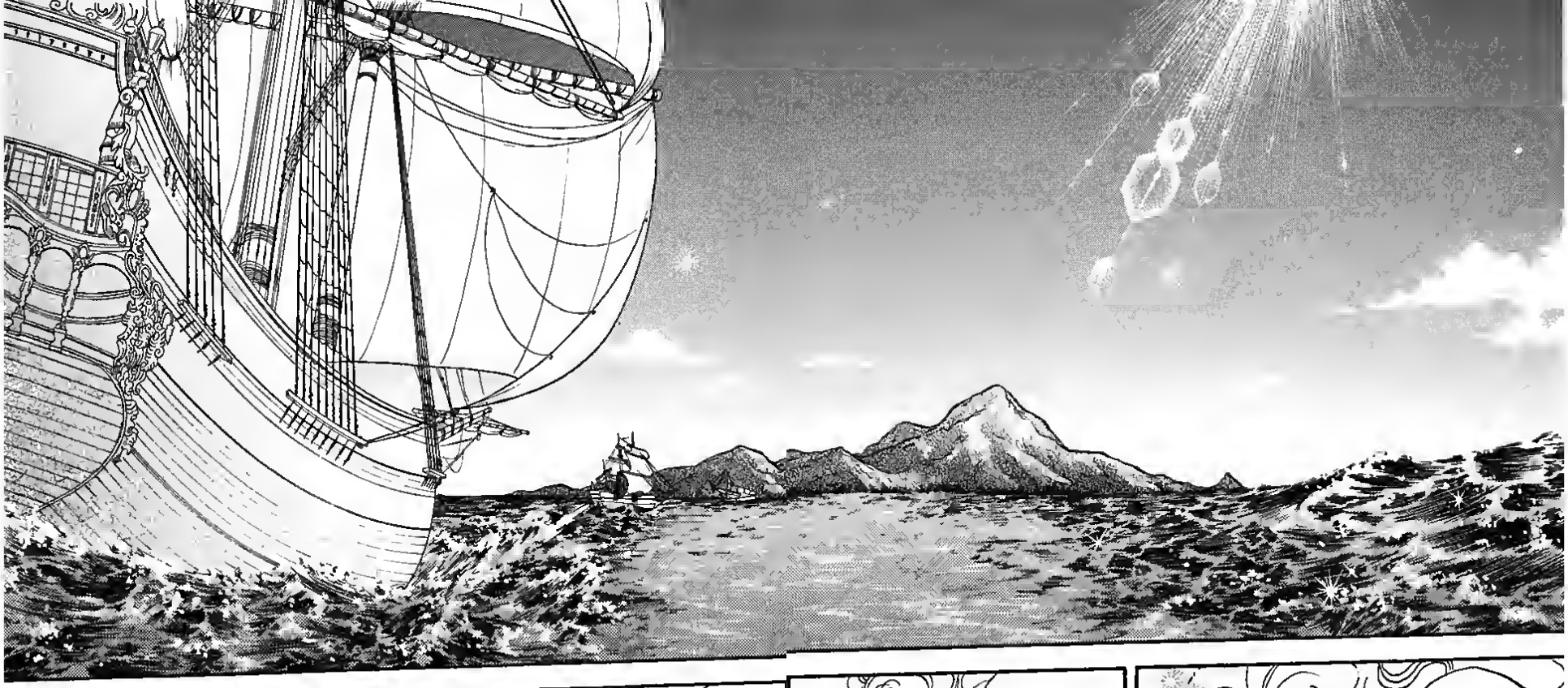
Oh, the rum there is the best
I'm on my way to Guadalupe after buying rum in Martinique
some cake?
I'm Charles Chestille, a trade merchant
He said he has a daughter your age
I like Mr. Charles the best, mama
Mama, let me sleep with you after we get to Martinique, 'kay?
Let's retreat to our room now, Hortense

We don't need you to tutor Eugene, Agathon
Mother says you may stay to do errands
wack
Isn't that a breach of your promise to Mlle.?
tug

...father ...
jolt
Act like a noble-man!
Physical punishment is needed when a servant denies his master!
Aga-thon!
so please, let Agathon stay with me tonight
sob
Father, Mme. Ivan, I'll study hard
She will teach you everything: etiquette, literature, history
This is your tutor, Mme. Ivan
Master Eugene..
Please. Please!
sob

Hi Agathon. You've grown
Jean
Punched as soon as you're here? That's awful
Jean had been nice since I first came to the estate. He was like an older brother to me
I'm so glad to see you again!
Mme. Beauharnais loves my cooking and won't let me go
whistle
Let's go out back

Silvie, this is my friend Agathon
Jean!
creep
?
smile
Hello, I'm a maid next door
We met when the Madam moved here-it was love at first sight
How do you do
I'm sure
You'll be happy with Jean
ha ha
We're hoping to get our masters' permission to marry



Martinique, the island where I was born
Childhood memories are coming back with the sparkling sunlight

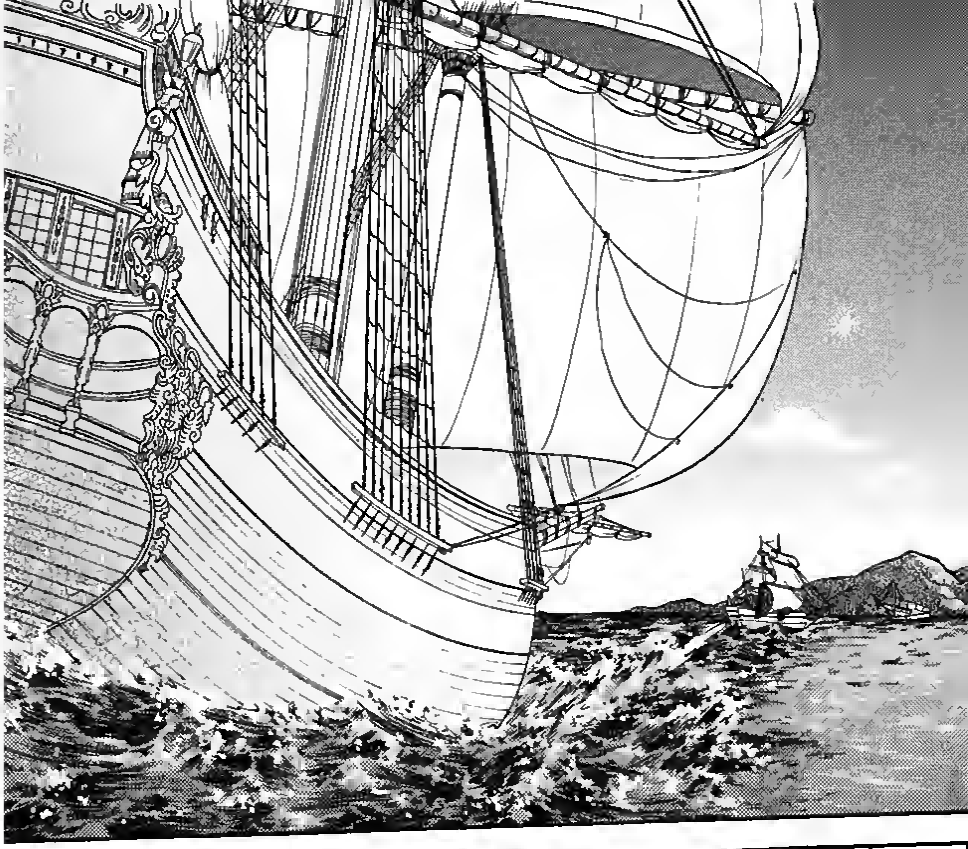
We'll see my cousin Aymee
I wonder what she'll say when she sees you

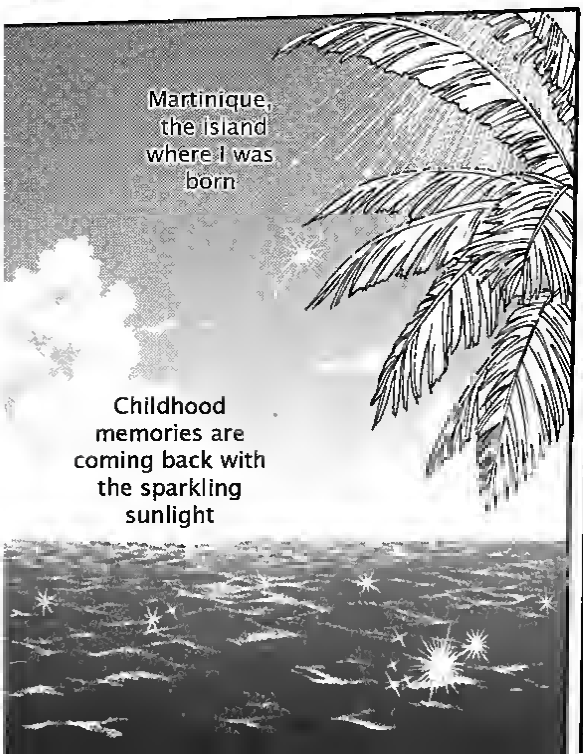
Everyone will be surprised we came before sending them a letter

We'll see Agathon's mama, too

We're here Hortense, it's Martinique

Everyone will be surprised we came before sending them a letter
We'll see Agathon's mama, too
We're here Hortense, it's Martinique

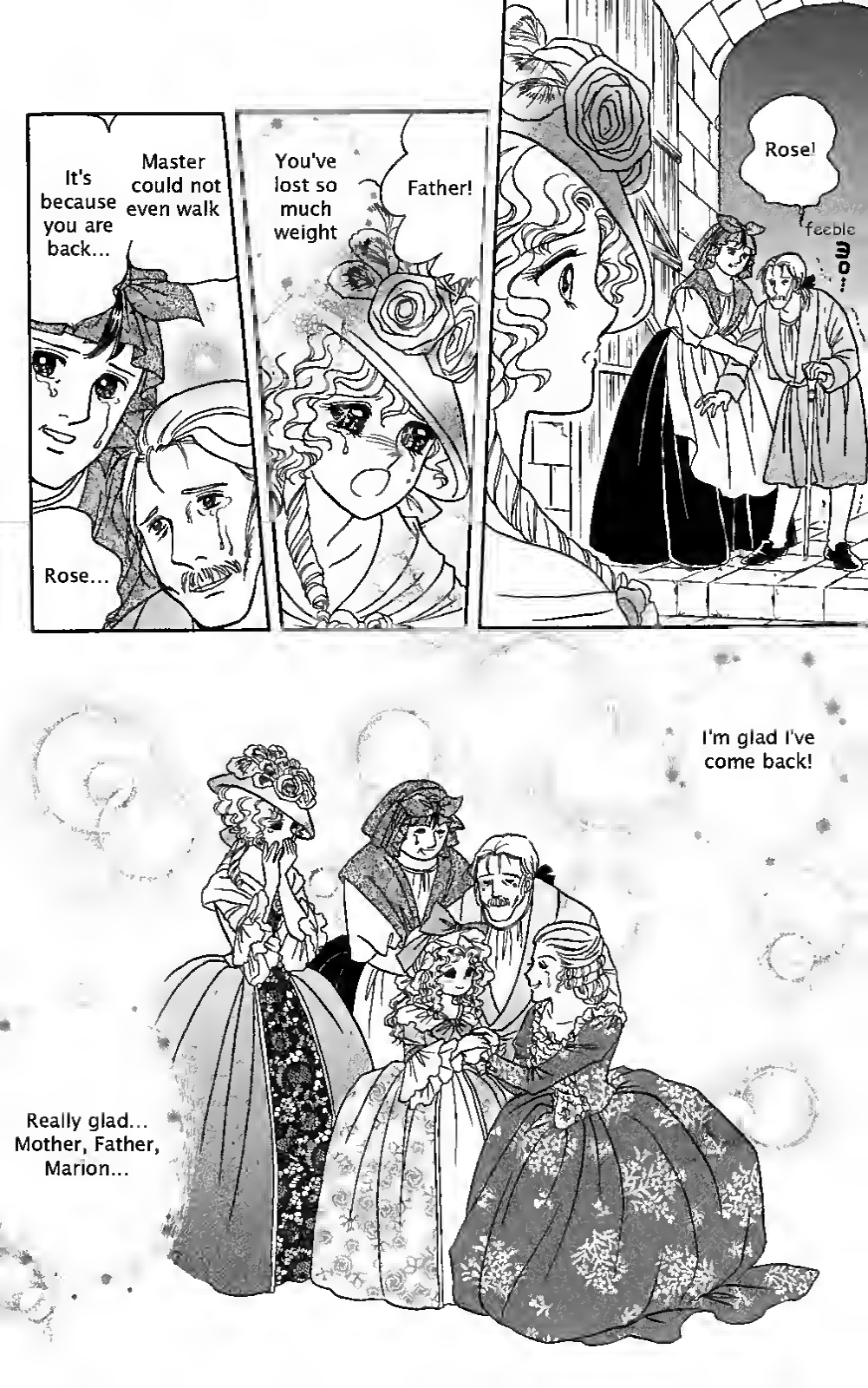



Martinique, the island where I was born
Childhood memories are coming back with the sparkling sunlight

I wonder what she'll say when she sees you
We'll see my cousin Aymee

Hi Marion,
I'm home

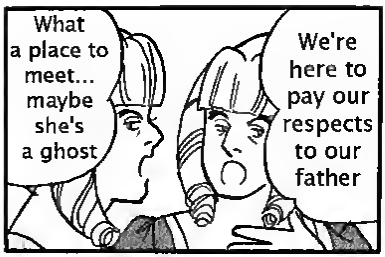
It's Mademoi-selle!
Master! Madame!
This is Hortense
Mother, I'm home
uptight
Rose!
How beautiful you are...you look exactly like Rose's sisters did at your age
Ah..this isn't a dream

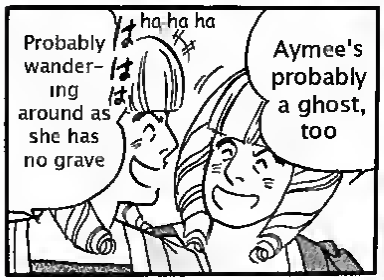

Rose!
feeble
Father!
You've lost so much weight
Master could not even walk
It's because you are back...
Rose...
I'm glad I've come back!
Really glad... Mother, Father, Marion...

I heard that Francoise died quickly from a fever...
Hortense, this is where my sisters rest

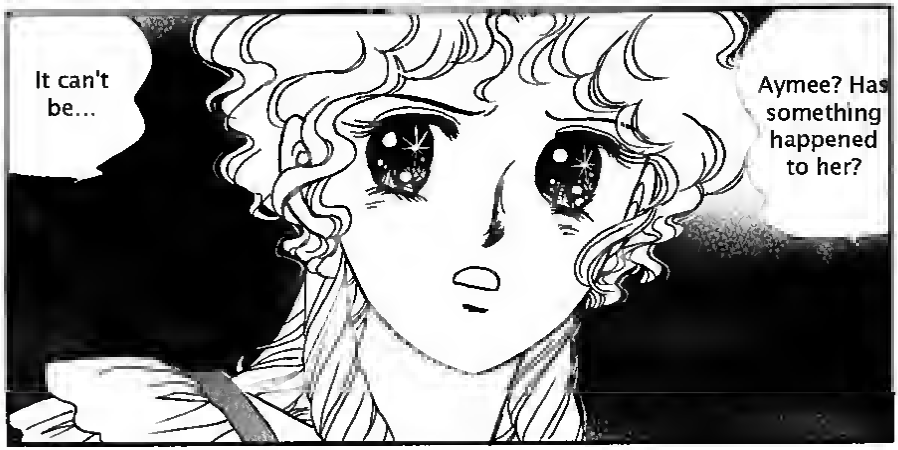
Promise me you'll take me to Paris
I want to go to Paris, big sister
Big sister
Big sister
Oh? You're cutting down this tree?
Catherine... Francoise...you've both moved on so quickly...
Mama
wail
turn

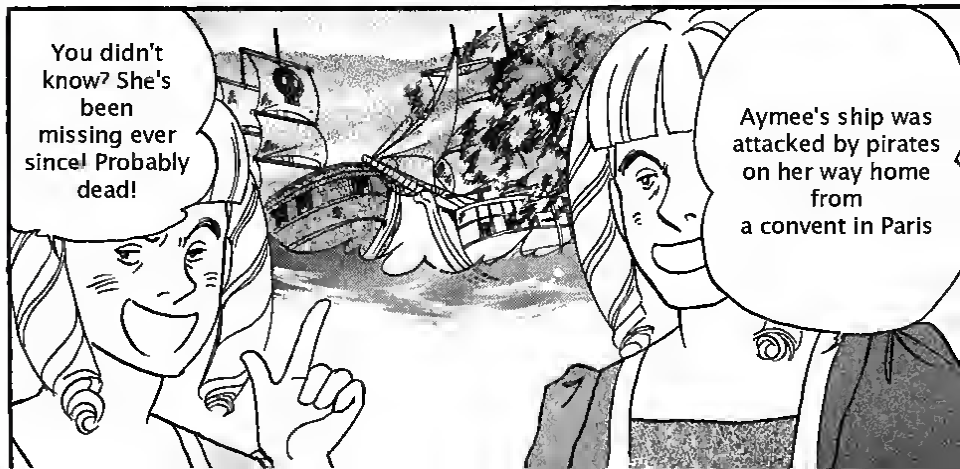
whenever you're sad or lonely
I'll always be near you
Don't cry, Mama
waa
waa
あ〜ん
I miss them! It's so sad!
I love you
Waa
あ〜ん
あ〜ん
Waa
Hortense... you're such a good girl
あ〜ん
waa
waa
Rose!
rustle
What's that huge sound, Anne-Lynne?
It sounds familiar, Anne-Roll
waa
waa
あ〜ん
あ〜ん


What a place to meet... maybe she's a ghost
We're here to pay our respects to our father

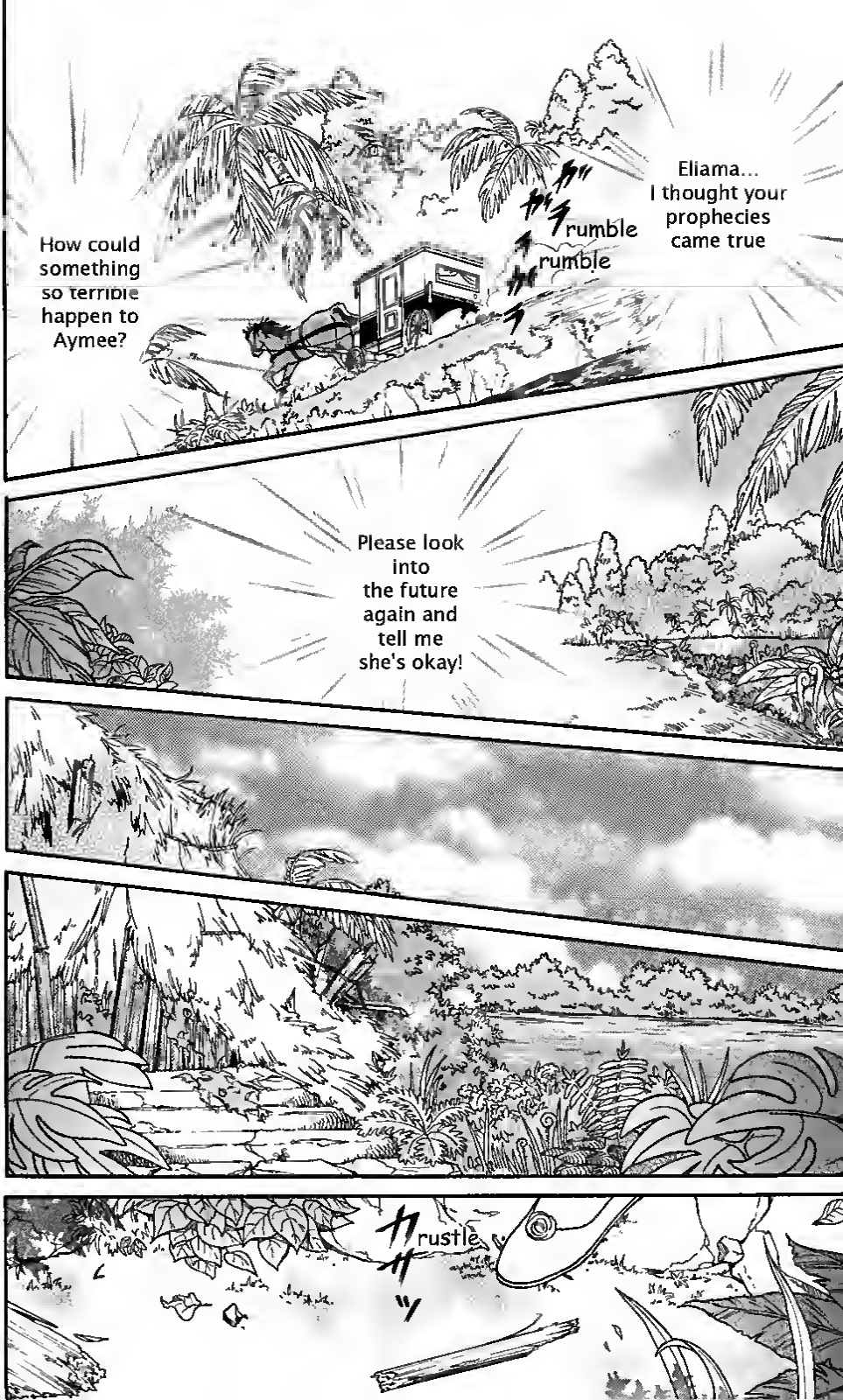

Probably wander-ing around as she has no grave
ha ha ha
Aymee's probably a ghost, too

You're back


It can't be...
Aymee? Has something happened to her?


You didn't know? She's been missing ever since! Probably dead!
Aymee's ship was attacked by pirates on her way home from a convent in Paris

Aymee!
Is it true, Marion?
Aymee... has she really ..?
Aymee was in Paris? She went missing on her way back to Martinique?
...so it's true
and I haven't had the chance to tell you
You've just come back
Watch Hortense for me
Mademoiselle!
I'm going to see Eliama!


How could something so terrible happen to Aymee?
rumble
rumble
Eliama... I thought your prophecies came true
Please look into the future again and tell me she's okay!
rustle

Girl, you're going to live a helluva life, climb to outrageous heights
Aymee will give birth to a boy, he'll become king, and she'll be empress dowager
Eliama...
Aymee isn't dead!
Please, Aymee, you've got to be empress dowager when that happens. Be safe!
I'm going to make sure I become a person who's greater than the queen!

Spring
1789
It looks like she's staying home a little longer
Finally we hear from Rose
How's Eugene? He isn't missing her?
Seems her father gets sicker when Rose starts to prepare to leave
and he's studying hard
Mme. Beauharnais dotes on him

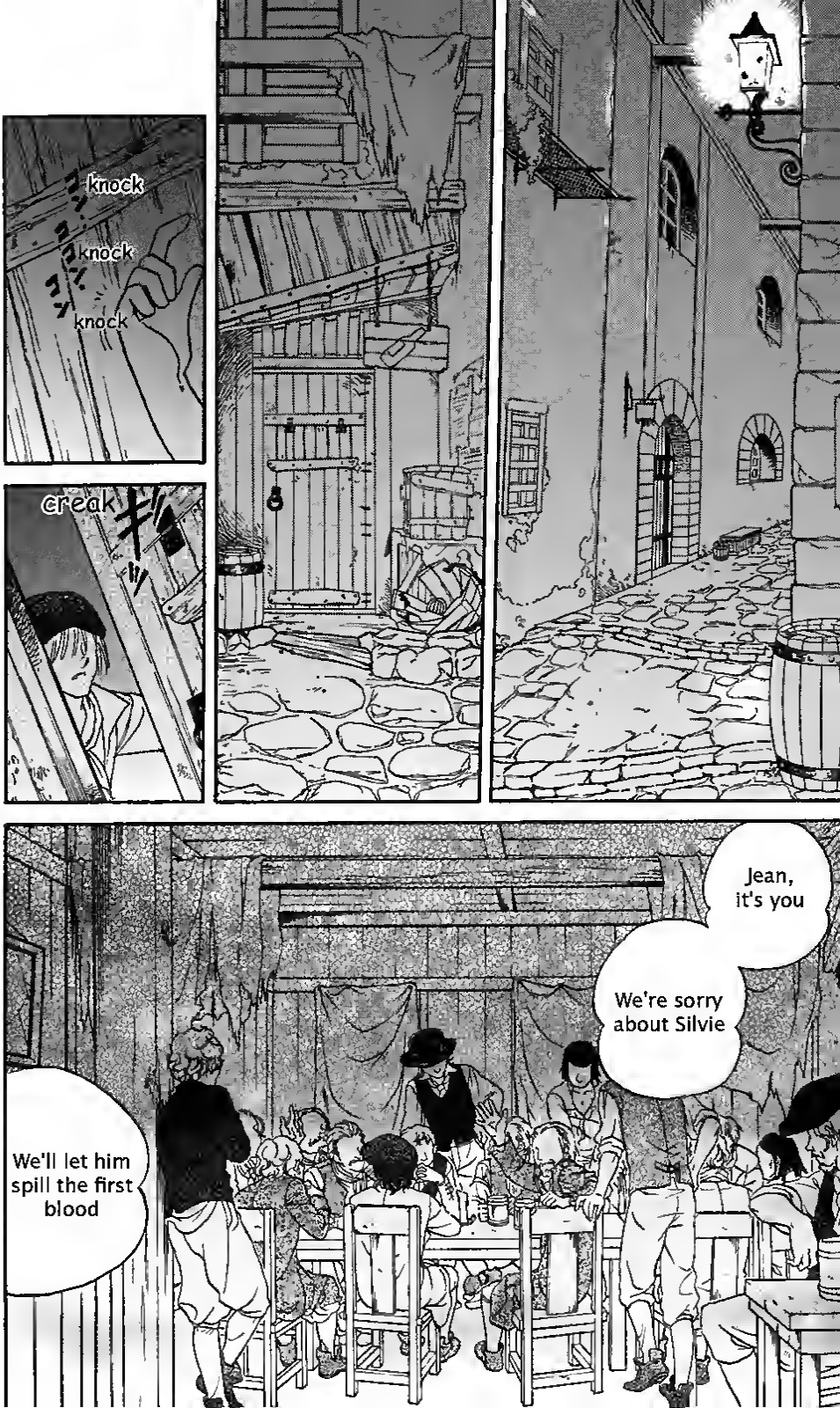
Yes...I have permission to do so in the evenings
Are you staying close to him, Agathon?
That's the son of a noble and military man
and he's teaching him to hunt and handle a gun
Master Alexandre is delighted with his intelligence
Good day
Thank you, no...I'll stay with Master Eugene
Come home to us, Agathon
Otherwise that old hag really makes you work
Yes, come home
where as Paris ...
Fontainebleau is still quiet

Small riots were occurring throughout Paris around this time
A father of the third estate protested against a noble who had run over and killed his child– and was shot dead
His friends set the noble's residence on fire
*the common class
A trades–man who delivers food to the King's palace had been attacked
and all his stock was stolen from his ware–house
More and more people in the city began to hate the nobles

A young woman jumped into the Seine
Someone save her!
Are you all right?
It's too late!
Jean
Silvie!
Where's Silvie?
dash
Silvie? Jumped?

Silvie!
He said she's his and raped her and pushed a hot iron into her back
I saw it
Silvie went to ask her Master for a leave to get married
I'll never forgive him!
She ran out of the residence
saying she couldn't face you, Jean

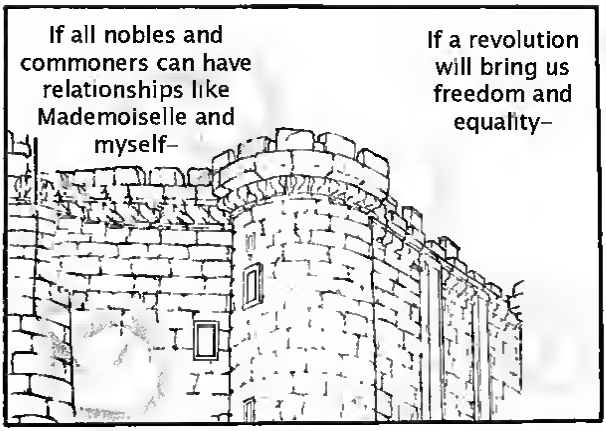
Zzzz
Silvie!
Jean
...
rustle
waiting for you in the garden tonight
-Jean
Friends?
Come with me
my friends are waiting


knock
knock
knock
creak
Jean, it's you
We're sorry about Silvie
We'll let him spill the first blood

push
Of course!
Can he be trus–ted?
Agathon, he's like a brother
I brought a new member
Who are these people?
Jean... your friends ...
We're making a world where everyone's equal
We're starting a revolution. Get rid of the nobles, the monarchy

It's time for a revolu-tion!
Join us!
Get rid of the nobles-start a revolution-
Oh, Mademoi-selle...!

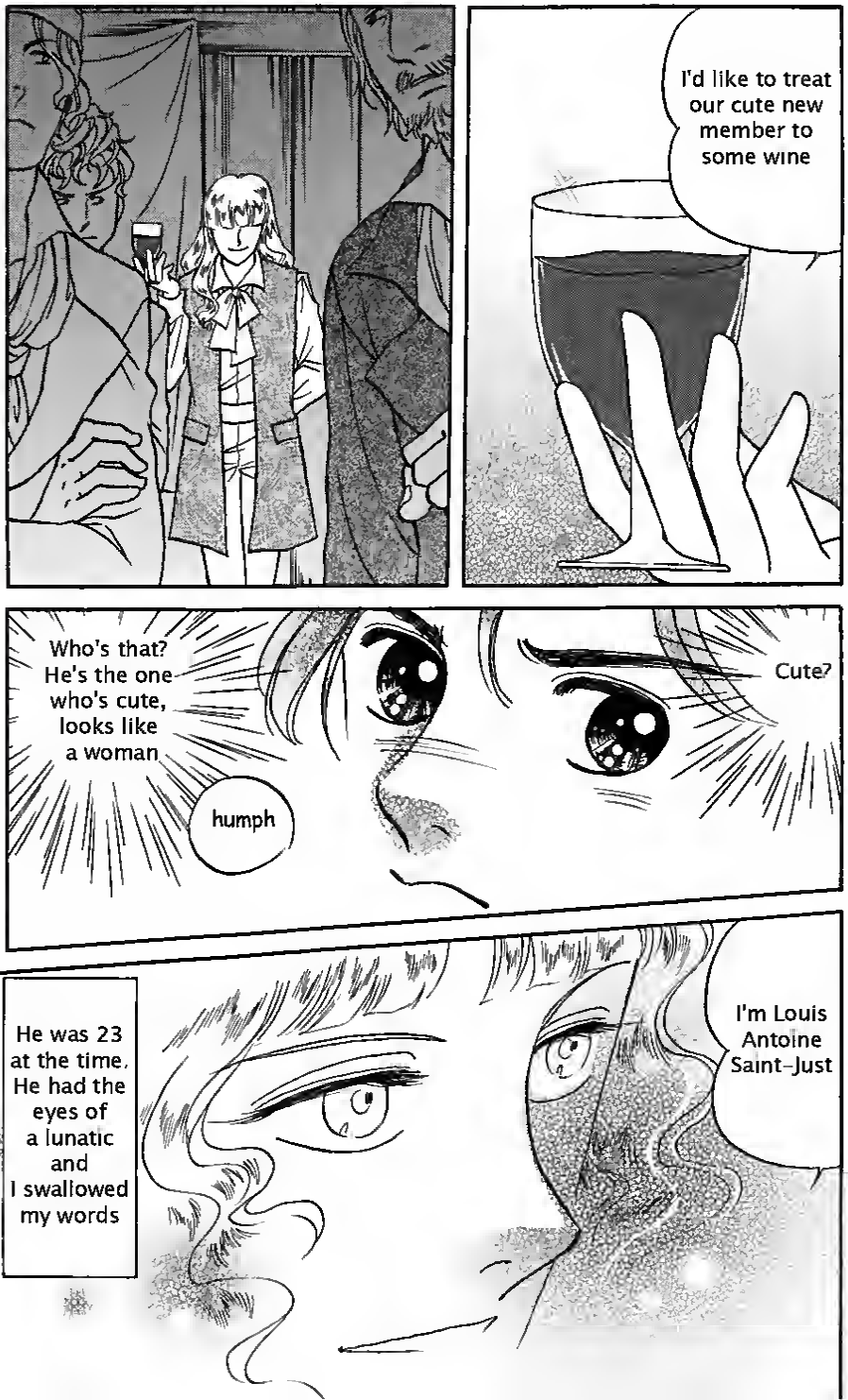
You'll join us, right?
Aga-thon!
Is he a spy?
Why don't you say some-thing?
Just because of our station in life she wasn't permitted to get married, and dying like that...we'll start a revolution and win our freedom
Silvie treated you like a little brother!
People of the third estate are so oppressed-
Silvie'd been so nice. Raped by her master, she got a hot iron for livestock on her back and chose to kill herself


If all nobles and commoners can have relationships like Mademoiselle and myself–
If a revolution will bring us freedom and equality–

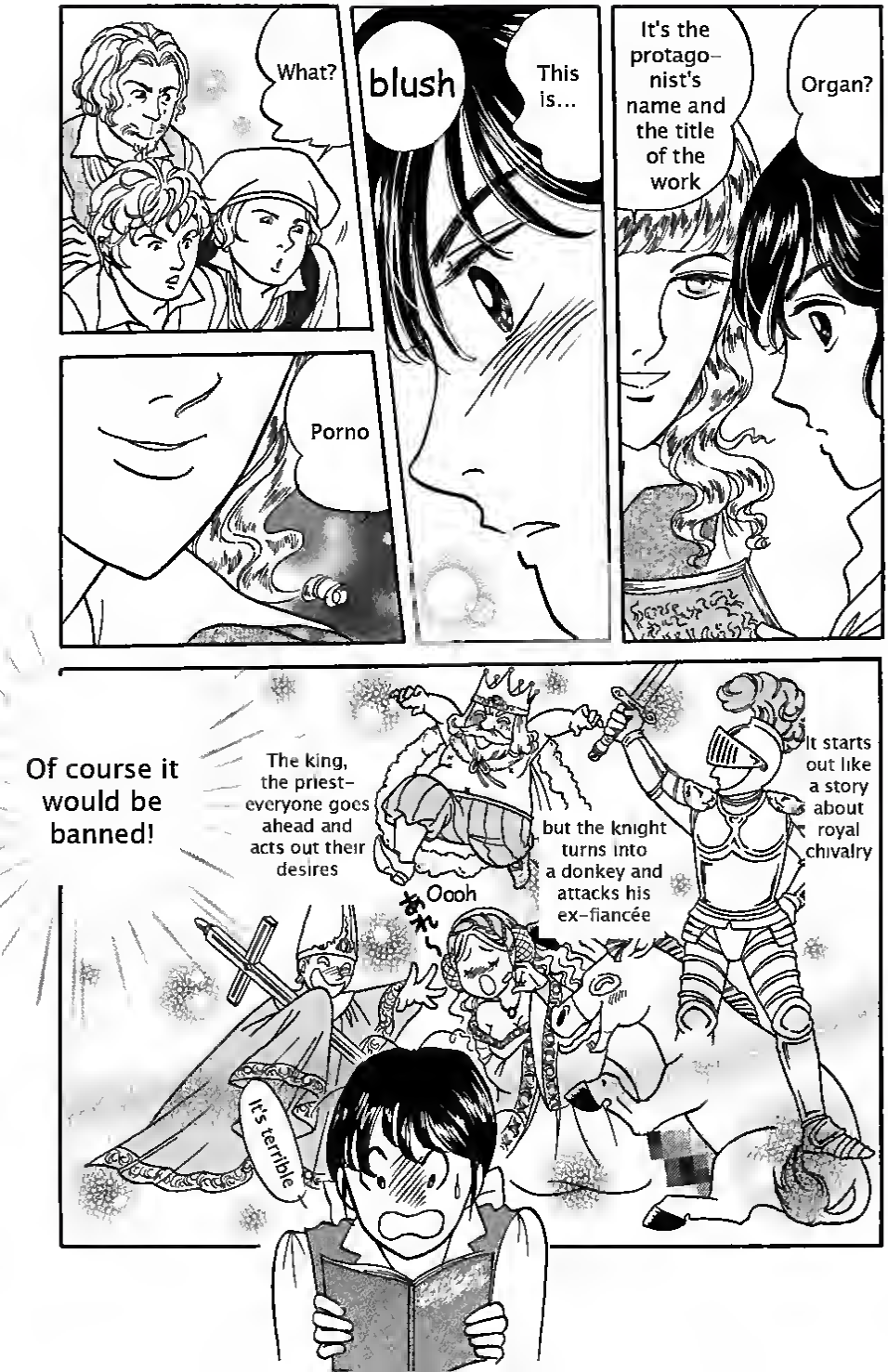
...I'll join you, Jean

We're getting together with them for our freedom
Tiny groups are being formed everywhere

Mademoiselle treats me as an equal
but that's probably a miracle

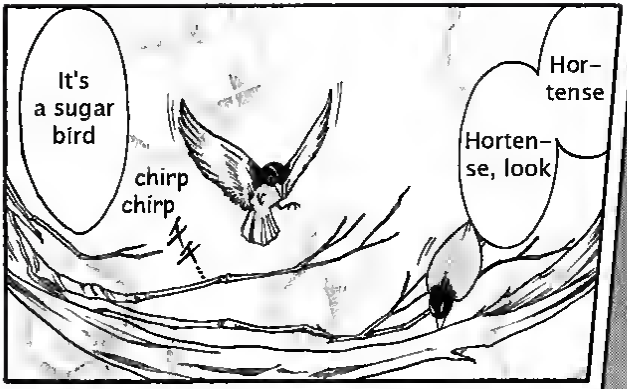

I'd like to treat our cute new member to some wine
Who's that? He's the one who's cute, looks like a woman
humph
Cute?
He was 23 at the time. He had the eyes of a lunatic and I swallowed my words
I'm Louis Antoine Saint-Just

boom
They have a warrant out for me
He's wanted?
He's wanted for publishing controversial literature underground
He's a legal expert from Blérancourt in the north
Yes, I can
Can you read?
You can have my magnificent novel as a token of our acquaintance
We can't read
わっ
rustle
Read it to us, Agathon
We'd like to know what a banned book is like

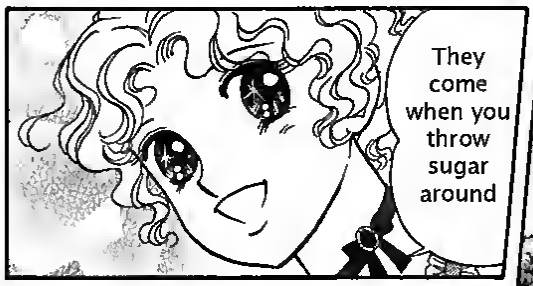

What?
blush
This is...
It's the protago-nist's name and the title of the work
Organ?
Porno
Of course it would be banned!
The king, the priest- everyone goes ahead and acts out their desires
Oooh
あれ～
but the knight turns into a donkey and attacks his ex-fiancée
It starts out like a story about royal chivalry
It's terrible

It's okay, just read it to us
ゴクッ gulp
You'd get caught reading or just having this book
What a baby
Ha ha ha ha
I'm leaving
You read it to them, Louis
Hey Agathon

Civi-
lians
getting
armed-
We're
going
out to
get arms
I'm not
going
back to
the
Beauhar-
nais place
I'm glad
you've
joined us
Watch
out for
govern-
ment offi-
cials when
you come
That
bar's
our
opera-
tion
base
Stay a little
longer on
Martinique,
Mademoiselle.
Paris is
dangerous for
nobles
No one can
tell what's
going to
happen


It's a sugar bird
chirp chirp
Hor-tense
Horten-se, look

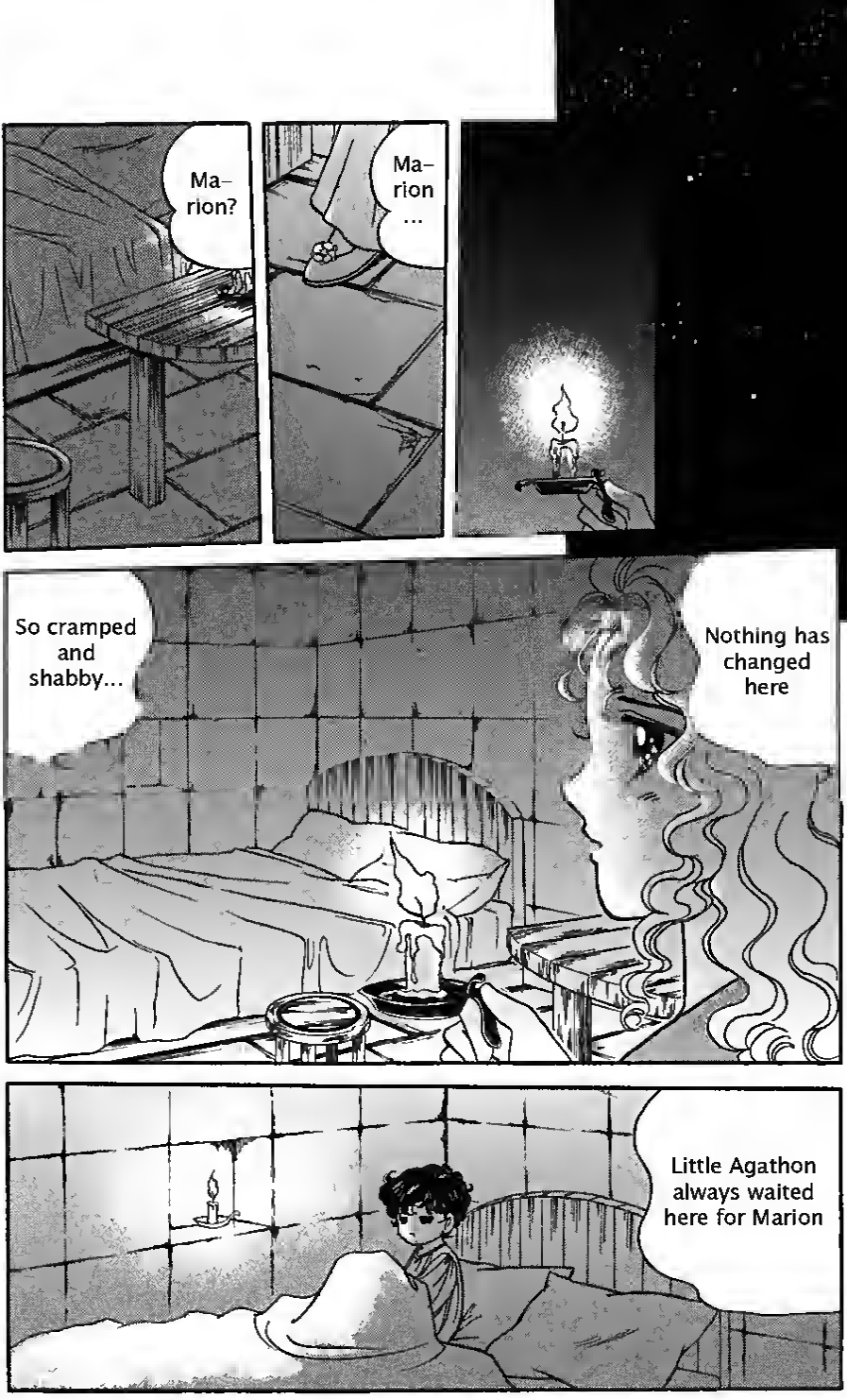
Wow, so many of them!


They come when you throw sugar around

weak
mo...
Master would like to come to you
Mademoi-selle, Mlle. Hortense
Right... slowly now
You're doing very well, sir
Slowly, sir
Easy now
slowly
Right, left
Right, left
Grandfather and Marion get along so well

Grandmother has always been outgoing
Yes...
It's because she has Marion!
Grandmother's out every day having fun shopping and visiting friends
I didn't see it as a child
but now it's clear to me
Father and Marion...
The master and the head maid...
they always have
They love each other

Ladies, your dresses are ready at the tailor's
Oh, Grand-mother's home
It's a very cute dress
Let Grandmother see you put it on
Mother doesn't see it...
Come now, Hortense
Oh, dear
unusual for you to be out


Ma-
rion?
Ma-
rion
...
So cramped
and
shabby...
Nothing has
changed
here
Little Agathon
always waited
here for Marion

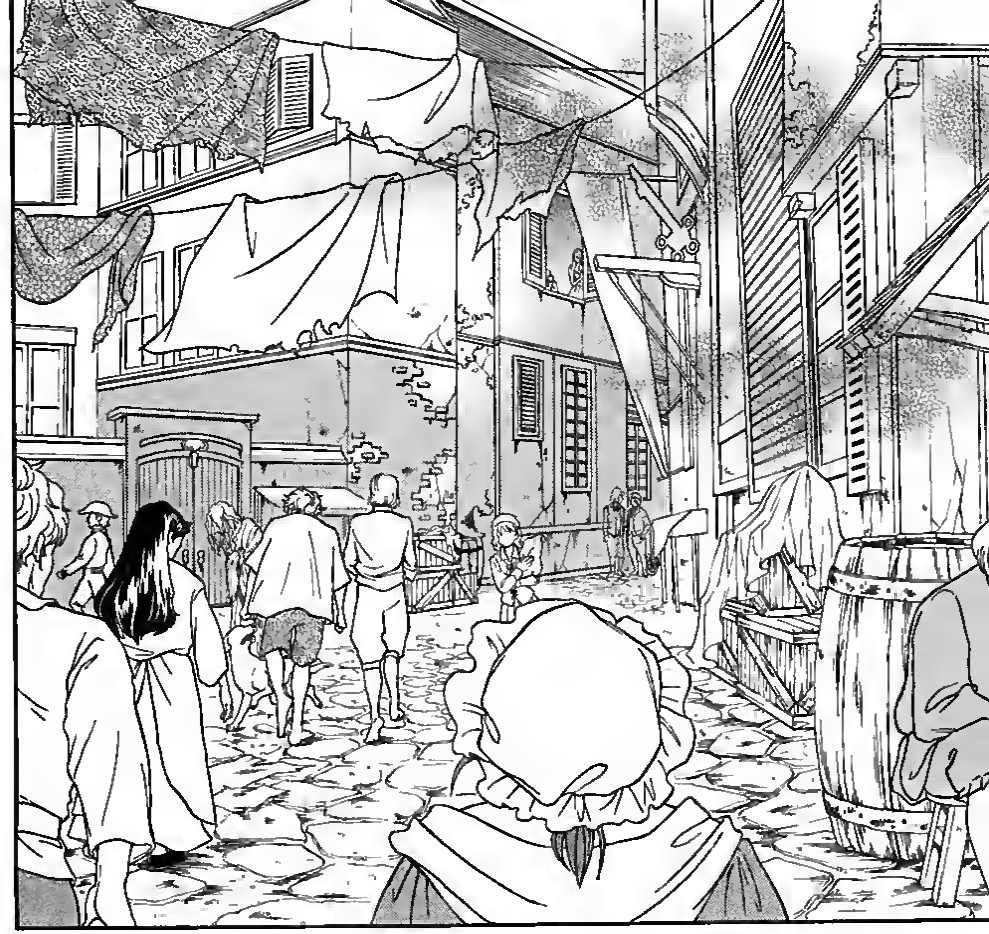
We were the ones who made you lonely, Agathon
Ha ha ha
squeak squeak
We were late getting to bed
and stopped Marion from going to her quarters
If Agathon happens to be my brother, he's the heir to the Tasseur de la Pagerie estate
I can't leave him in Paris forever, looking after Eugene!

Made-moiselle
Master just went to the rest room
He goes less at night since you've come home
Agathon is my father's son, isn't he?
No, I'm happiest when I tend to Master
Mother sleeps in a separate bedroom now so she can rest
there's so much for you to do

Think about his future!
Agathon is 20
Mademoiselle, what are you saying?
Agathon's future
his future...
and our heir
Agathon is my brother
Please, Marion, tell me the truth!
I'll speak to Mother

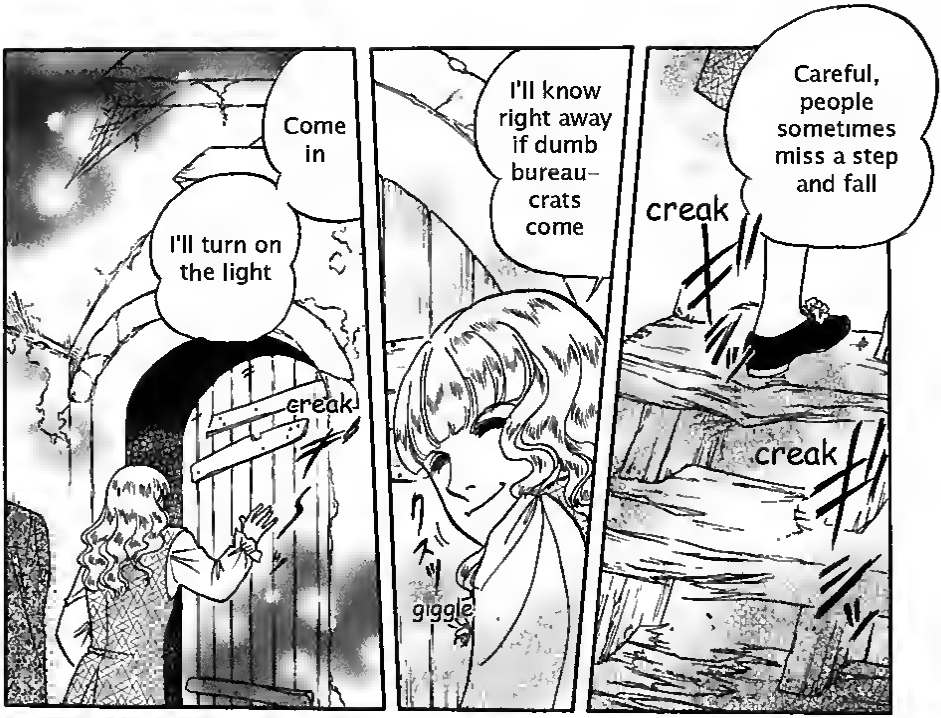
But if you look upon him as a brother
He..
he is not your father's son
Nothing can make us so happy
Both he and I are happy enough with that
Please, let him stay near you forever

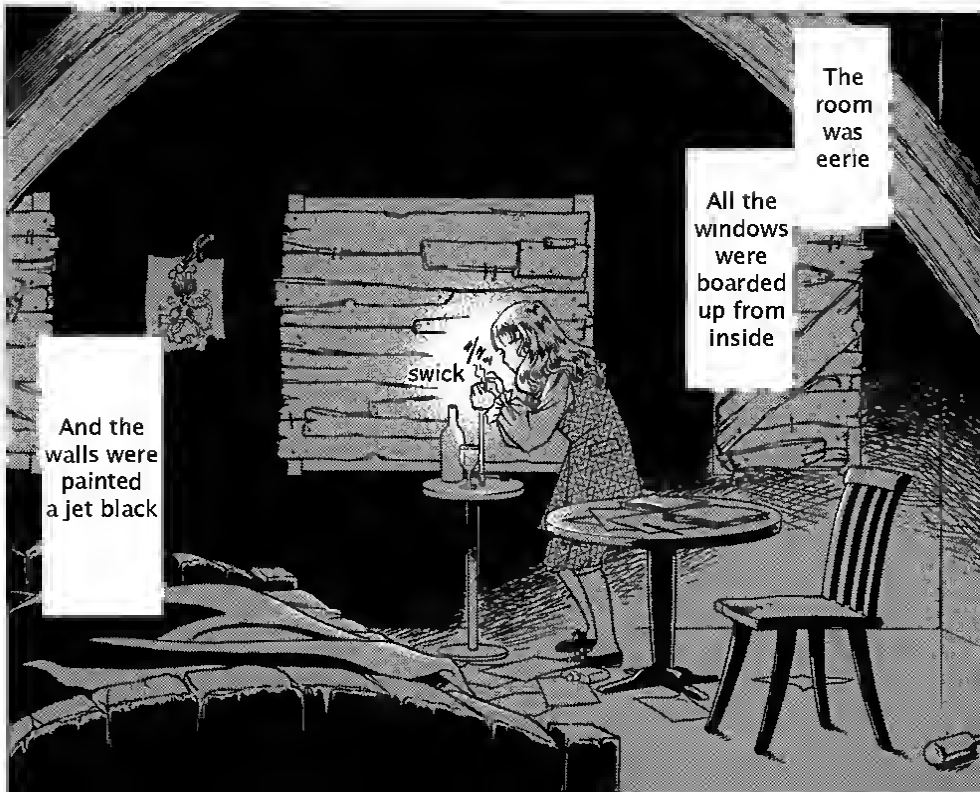
Agathon~
What are you doing in Paris right now?
But I still love Agathon
Marion did not speak the truth



Hey, you'll be attacked walking around dressed like that

So you're a servant for some noble
Louis... aren't you a wanted person?
Are you safe in a crowded place like this?
Humph! Those idiots could never arrest me
Stop by my place a bit, it's nearby
The wooden stairway's rotten
ギシッ
creak
ギシッ


Come in
I'll turn on the light
creak
I'll know right away if dumb bureau-crats come
giggle
Careful, people sometimes miss a step and fall
creak
creak


The room was eerie
All the windows were boarded up from inside
And the walls were painted a jet black
swick

It's still before lunch
and I'm about to head back
Some wine?
pour...
コポポ...
This is a burial room
Hm, never heard of him
Marquis Beau-harnais...
gulp
...Agathon, right? Who is it you work for?
For freedom and equality
For Jean
Why are you joining the revolution?

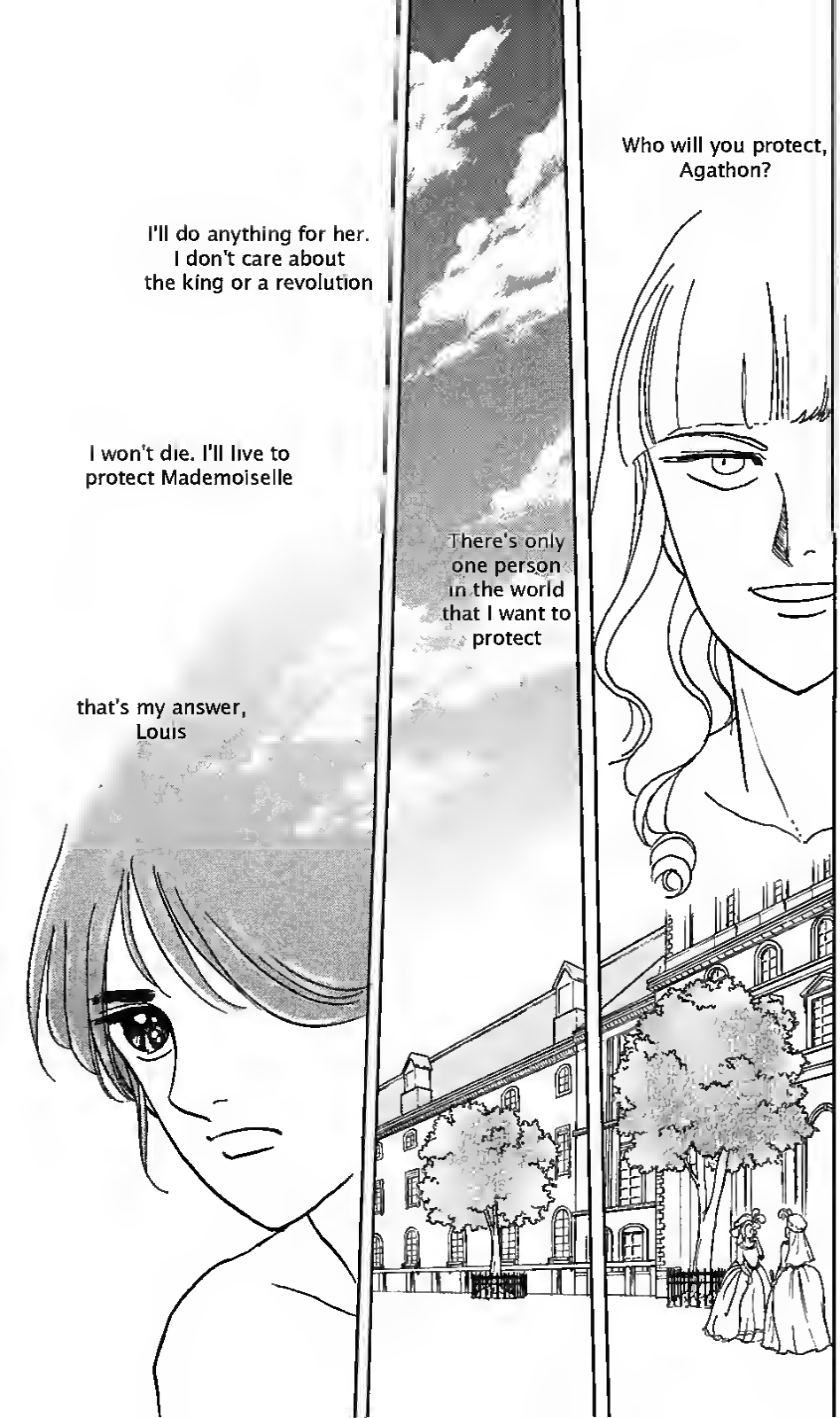
Are you ok with that?
You might die, too
You're risking your life for a friend? For a dream like freedom and equality?
あはは Ha ha ha
Ha ha ha はは
I...
A lot of people are going to be killed!
I just hate idiots who act so important
I couldn't care less about some revolution
And you have no doubts about such a life
You can eat every day and you have a bed
Humph! See, you can't answer right away.
You're fine as you are
Hm

fling
those who leave me!
fling
Idiots who try to control me!
betray me!
or guide me!
...Louis?
It's the end for the king, so hated by the people. No matter how hard you work you only get a handful of wheat. But at the palace there's too much meat and bread to eat
That's good. The closer they are to the royals the closer they'll be to hell
Is your master close to the king?
...no
The nobles will be split up into those who stick with the king and those who side with the people!

Make the wrong move and your master'll be in danger
Aga-thon
you have beauti-ful eyes
Wha ...!
What are you doing?
Ha-ha-ha
はははは
I'm free
I'm free from the foolishness that hold people back and I'll trample over love and pleasures

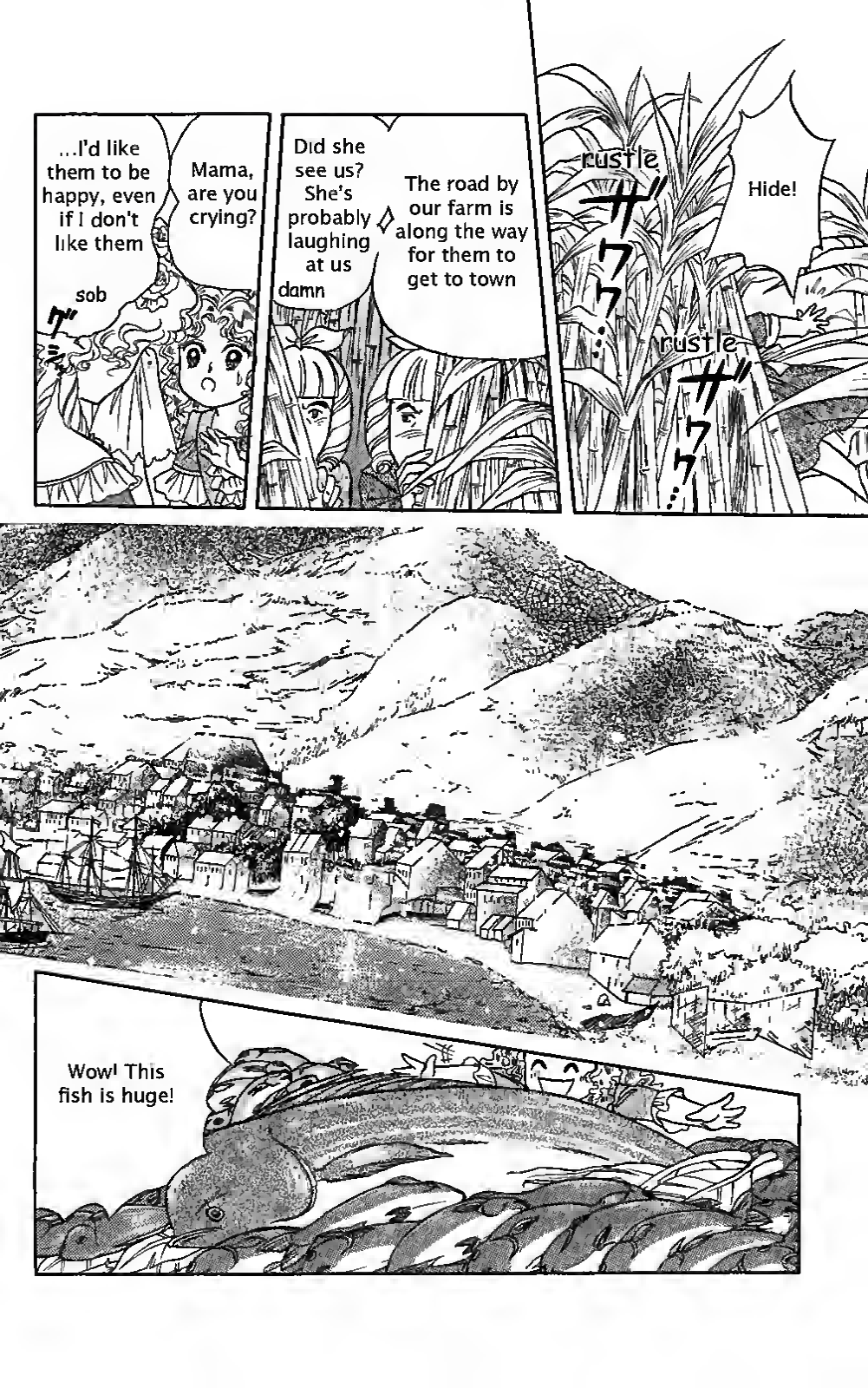
What do you believe in?
Our rotten era won't last for long
but we have to keep on living
believing in something!
Who will you protect?
The person I want to protect...
is Mademoiselle
Who will be interred on funeral day and who will stand by?
Remember, this era will soon come to an end
we're digging the graves right now
Which... will you be?

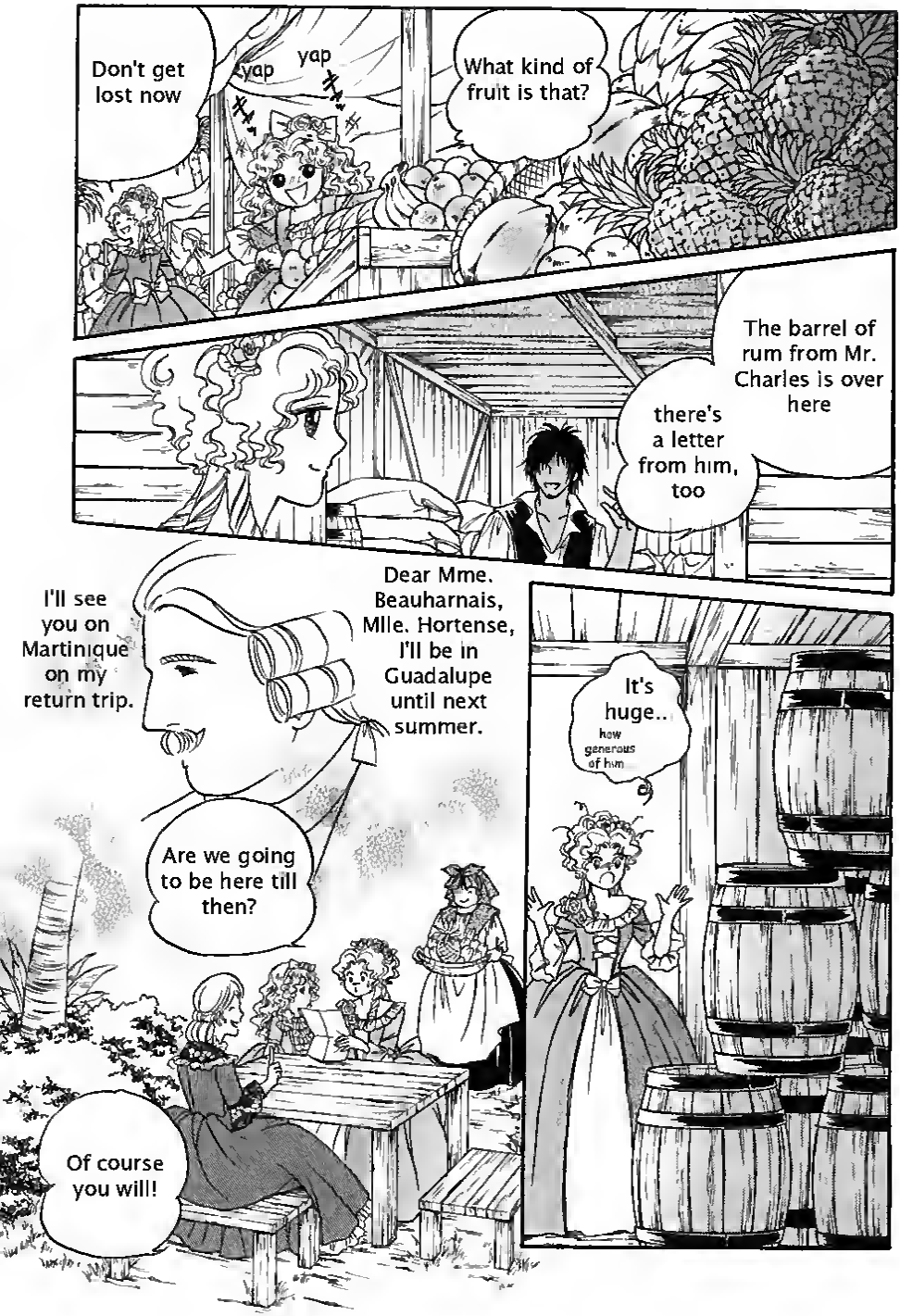
There!
I feel dizzy
maybe from his intoxi-cation
bump
Move!
feeble
He's sure to get away
The stairs gave way...
Aah
Wow!
thump
clatter clatter
thud
Don't let him get away
clatter clatter


Who will you protect, Agathon?
I'll do anything for her. I don't care about the king or a revolution
I won't die. I'll live to protect Mademoiselle
There's only one person in the world that I want to protect
that's my answer, Louis

On the island of Martinique, far away from Paris–not a word of information had reached Rose
July 13, 1789
rattle rattle
We'll pick it up and go shop-ping, too
Charles, the man we met on the ship, has rum for us at port
We're going to have fun going to town together
Oh? Look out there...
Ah yes that's right...
I love rum, too, Marion
Master will be pleased, rum is his favorite

Anne-Lynne and Anne-Roll are working with their slaves and servants
children, too!
rattle
rattle
I heard rumors that their husbands are more greedy than their father and they married for money
Everyone knows they punch their wives and children to make them work
They're always so sarcastic
I never would have expected this...
That's Rose's carriage, Anne-Lynne
Oh!
rattle
rattle


...I'd like them to be happy, even if I don't like them
sob
Mama, are you crying?
Did she see us? She's probably laughing at us
damn
The road by our farm is along the way for them to get to town
rustle
rustle
Hide!
Wow! This fish is huge!

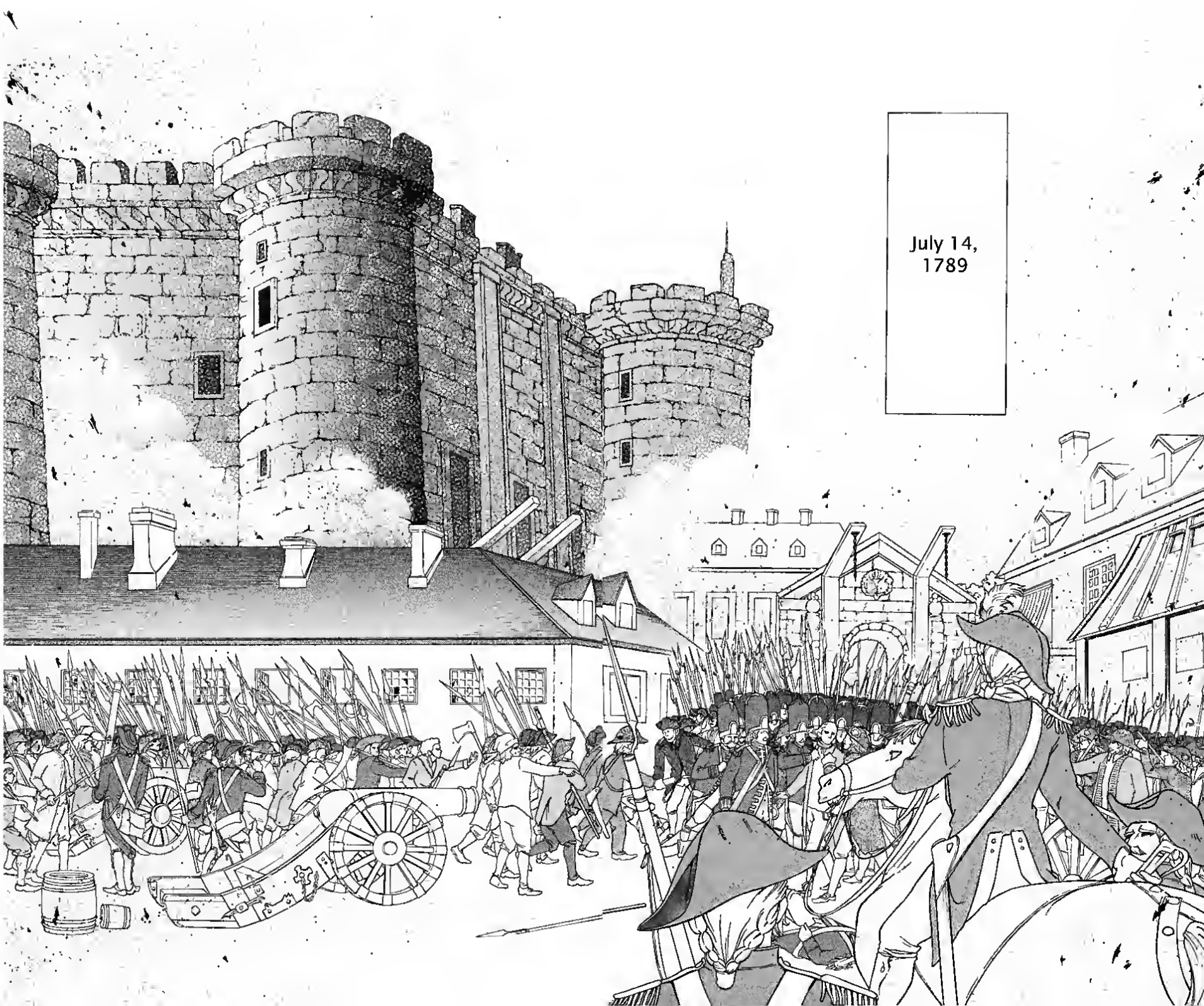

Don't get lost now
yap
yap
What kind of fruit is that?
The barrel of rum from Mr. Charles is over here
there's a letter from him, too
I'll see you on Martinique on my return trip.
Dear Mme. Beauharnais, Mlle. Hortense, I'll be in Guadalupe until next summer.
It's huge..
how generous of him
Are we going to be here till then?
Of course you will!

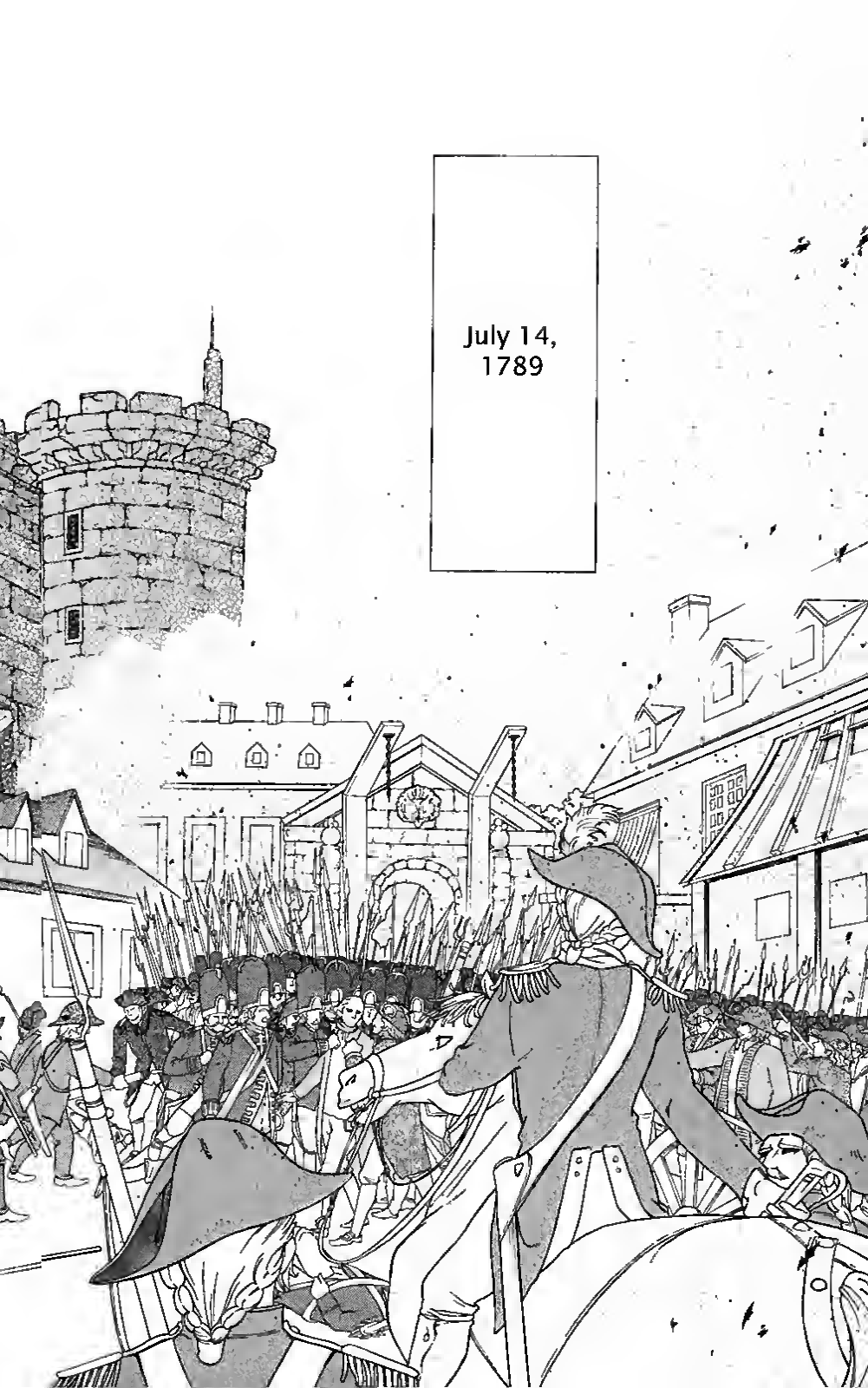
Here's our plan
We'll be heading for Bastille
Tomorrow .. our group will be in the lead
We take them then attack the first drawbridge at once
Even cannons!
Ah, they have 30,000 guns there
Les invalides?
First we'll raid the facility for invalid soldiers and take their weapons and ammunition
That'll be the cue for the groups that have assembled to raid the place
Our commandos will cut the chains and lower the bridge

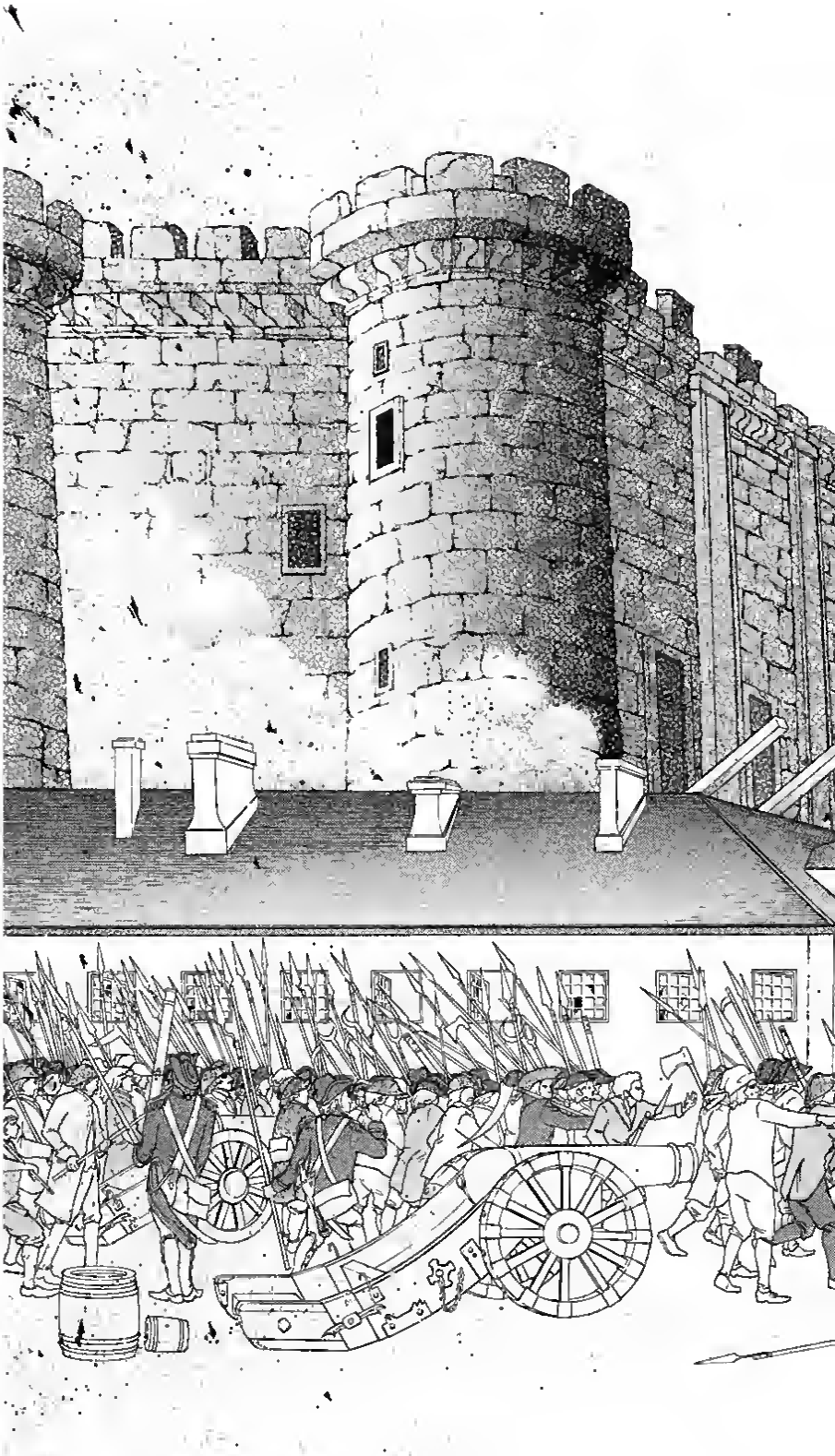
I'll climb the wall. Once we cut those chains we'll be able to gain our freedom!
The soldiers will see us climbing the wall and shoot us down
Cut the chains? You can't reach them unless you climb up the wall
I snuck into Master's den and read a lot
he's military
Agathon... where'd you learn strategy like that?
The more people there are and the more confused they are on who to shoot we'll have better chances of making it
We'll all climb the wall. This is the plan.
and they're heading this way
Hey! The bureaucrats are checking every place

Douse yourselves with it! Quick!
Splash wine over the floor!
Creak
What's this smell?
ぶわ
odor
Aah....I can't drink no more

The soldiers were relaxed
They believed that peace today would continue tomorrow
Let's go, the odor's contagious
Terrible! They're all dead drunk
While we made preparations for our tomorrow of no return
The poor throughout Paris were in the same state, harboring their anger
For tomorrow!
For the new future that we would live to see!


July 14,
1789


July 14,
1789



thud
thud
Rescue the political prisoners!
They're on our side
roar
Kill anyone who gets in the way!
The draw-bridge is down!
The view atop the wall was amazing
It looked as if everyone from Paris was here

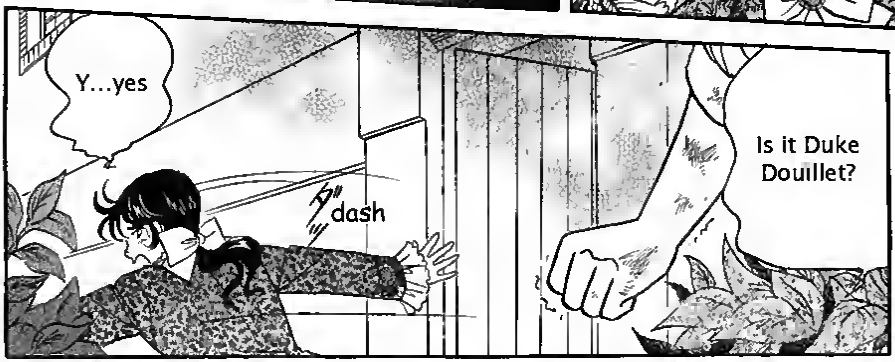
We believed that this was the start of the new world that Jean and I had discussed every day, where everyone was equal
Now's my chance to get revenge for her
I've been waiting for this!
Silvie's protec-ting me
I don't even have a single scratch
It's nothing
roar
roar
Agathon, you're blee-ding

Jean!
dash
I'm going to kill that noble, throw his head into the Seine!
If Jean goes there alone...
But the nobles next door said they were having a small party today
Jean, come back!
The Beau-harnais clan had a good sense of timing
roar
roar
Master Alexandre is at his summer cot-tage with his mother and Master Eugene

Die!
Aaah
scream
crash
Kill them!
Kill all nobles!
Aaah
Agathon, don't leave us!
Help us!
Yikes
Have the party guests gotten involved?
The nobles next door are being attacked by the mob!
Aaah
Is your name Agathon?
He...help me, I'm not a noble.
Aga-thon?
Oh
rustle rustle

I'll hire you
Play-mate?

Mademoiselle just calls me that. It's the name of her old flame
I was brought from our farm ten years ago to be her playmate

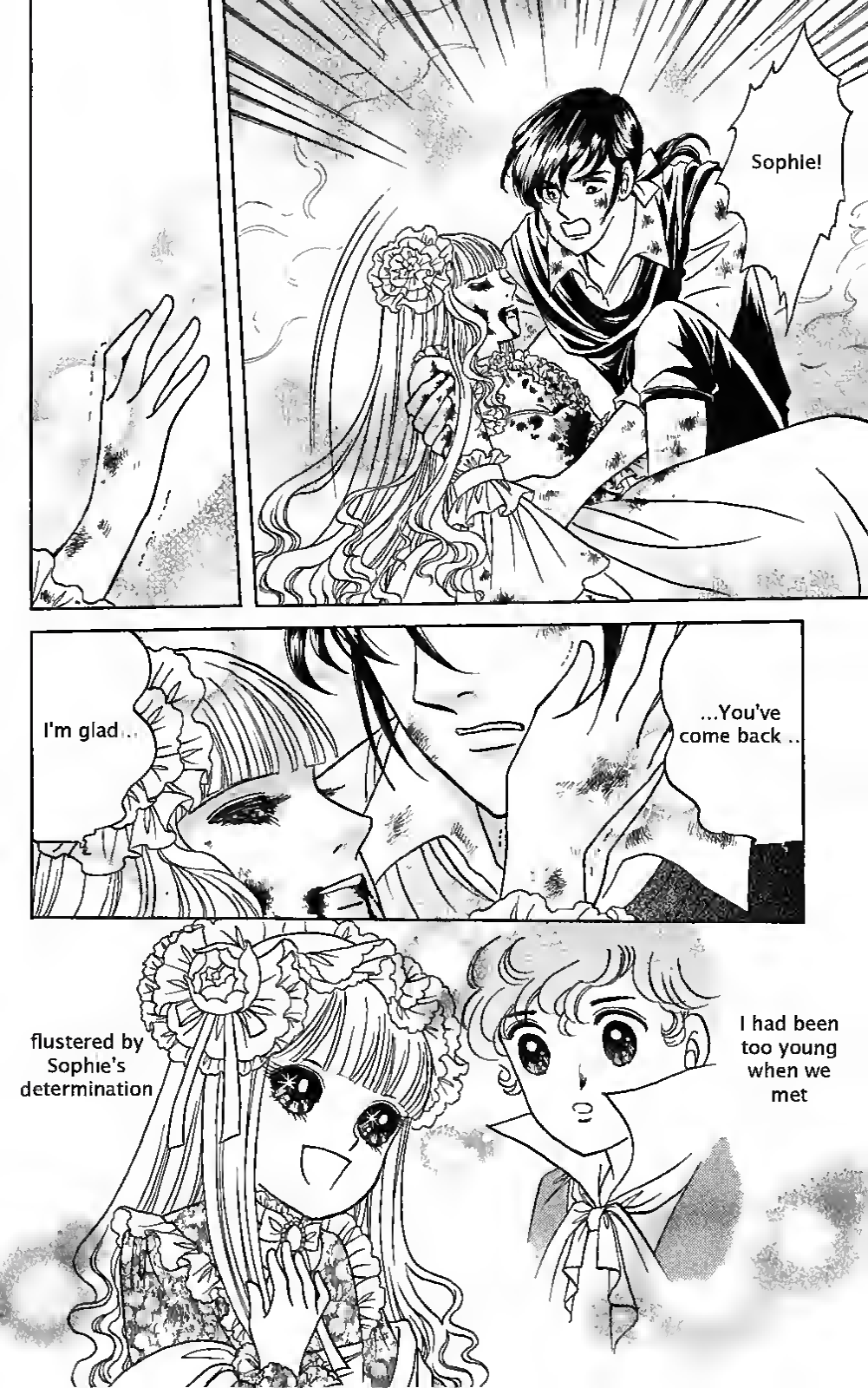

Y...yes
dash
Is it Duke Douillet?

That was Sophie screaming!
Sophie!

These are priceless
Take all their valuables
roar
ゴオオ
Sophie!
Sophie, where are you?
The room was a horrendous sight, where nobles lay slaughtered

Jean!
It's revenge for Sophie
Ha ha... I killed a noble girl
Sophie!

Silvie says so
All nobles can die
She's done nothing wrong!
Jean! Why did you do such a thing...
...Jean...
Silvie! Where are you?
Silvie! Where are you?
I've come for you
...Aga-thon...


Sophie!
I'm glad..
...You've come back ..
flustered by Sophie's determination
I had been too young when we met

but with this revolution
Even at my young age I thought you outranked me too much
Agathon...
I might have been able to respond to you
When everyone becomes free and equal
If I met you then
that's why I came to this tea party...
I heard the Beauharnais residence where you work...they're next door...
Then those feelings you've held onto for me for a decade

Sophie...are you saying you came here to see me?
Have I...become pretty?
very
...Yes...
ゴッ
cough
...I'm tired...
Aga-thon...
Sophie!
...kiss me good night

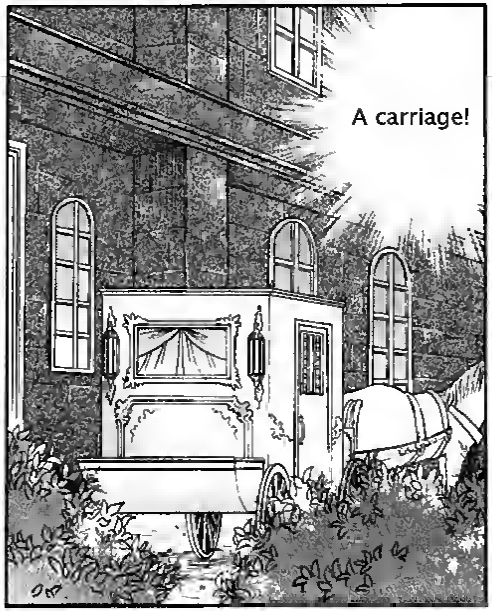
Sophie?
Sophie!

Is this the revolution that everyone dreamed about?
...this?
わあroar
はHa ha ha
はは
Yeah!
Kill all the nobles!

The crowd became vampires after noble blood
This... is a revolution. It was only hatred and revenge that motivated the mob

I was wandering about with no idea where I was or how many days had gone by
I have to see Mademoiselle!

...Can it be?
rustle
rustle


A carriage!

Master Eugene
Agathon!
Aga-thon!
I was so worried about you
Agathon! You're alive!
Eugene! Don't touch a filthy piece of dirt like that

Aga-thon
So you've managed to stay alive
Knowing you, you probably dove right in to take part in the revolution
I have foresight, eh?
Don't look at me like that. I'm with the revolutio-nary forces

I came to Fontainebleau knowing that Mademoiselle wouldn't be home
I want to talk to you
You're a mess
Go and wash up and change your clothes
It's quiet here as if nothing's happened
Splash
Is it because Master Alexandre is with the revolution-ary forces?
Master Ale-xandre said that?
You aren't a servant anymore, Agathon
You mustn't, Master Eugene, your father will get angry
splat
Father said the time's come for equality
Here you are
Agathon! I brought your clothes

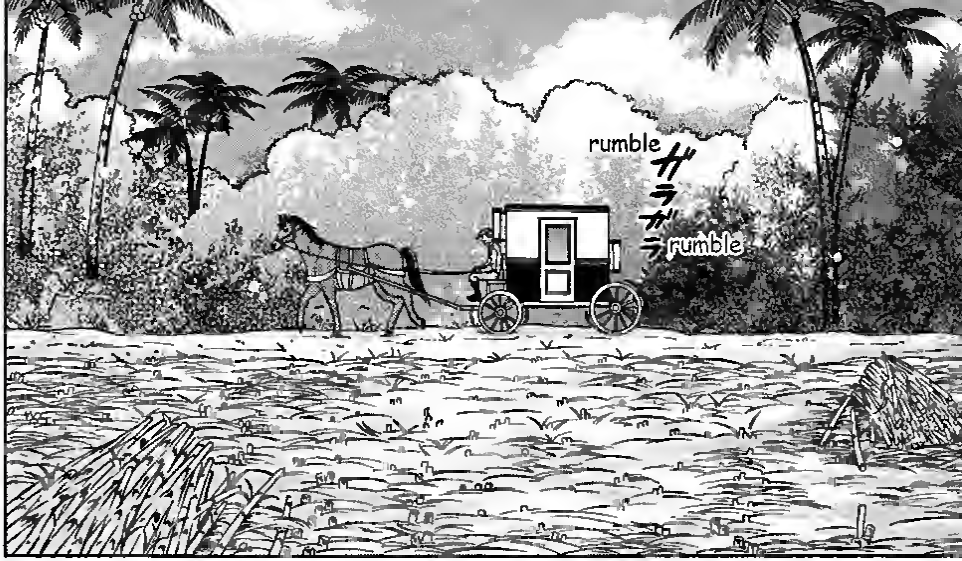
I serve Mademoi-selle
I won't act on your com-mand
You can go wherever you like
Yes...I'll give you freedom
I'm leaving Eugene here. Could you protect him?
Mother is joining relatives in western France and I have a lot of work to do
Then I'd like to ask you a favor
Just as I thought
I'd be delighted
Yes sir

ズthud
Take this
Yes, I can
...
can you do it?
There will be times when you can't protect without killing
Good

Master Alexandre checked my response and then left proudly like the military man that he was
And this–was the last day that I would see him

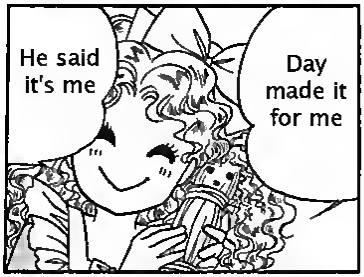
June 1790--news about the French revolution had not yet reached Mademoiselle
Hor-tense
Where are you?
We're leaving
Mlle. Hortense is exactly the way you were at her age
...Yes ...
taking off to who knows where
Look! Day made me a doll with a sugar cane!
She makes friends quickly with the children of the tenant farmers and the slaves
Mama!

Daddy said it was bad
Talking about cannons and riots, whatever they are
The farmers at Anne-Lynne and Anne-Roll's farm?
Yup. They're talking in the sugar cane shack
Right?
The farmers at the Gabriel Farm are here to see Day's father
?
Riots? Cannons?
See you later
We need to go now to see him off, Hortense
Mademoiselle, Mr. Charles' ship is about to depart


rumble
ガラガラ
rumble

They seem to be getting together a lot lately complaining about their employers
I heard the tenant farmers from the Gabriel Farm came by to visit

That doll, Mlle. Hortense?


He said it's me
Day made it for me

boom

rumble
rumble
rumble
What was that noise?
What happe-ned?
naaaay
Oh!
A riot's occurred at the Gabriel Farm. They stole cannons at the port
Someone blocked the road going back with cannons
Did what Day was saying really happen?
A riot? Cannons?
roar
The horse won't stop-we'll go straight to the port!

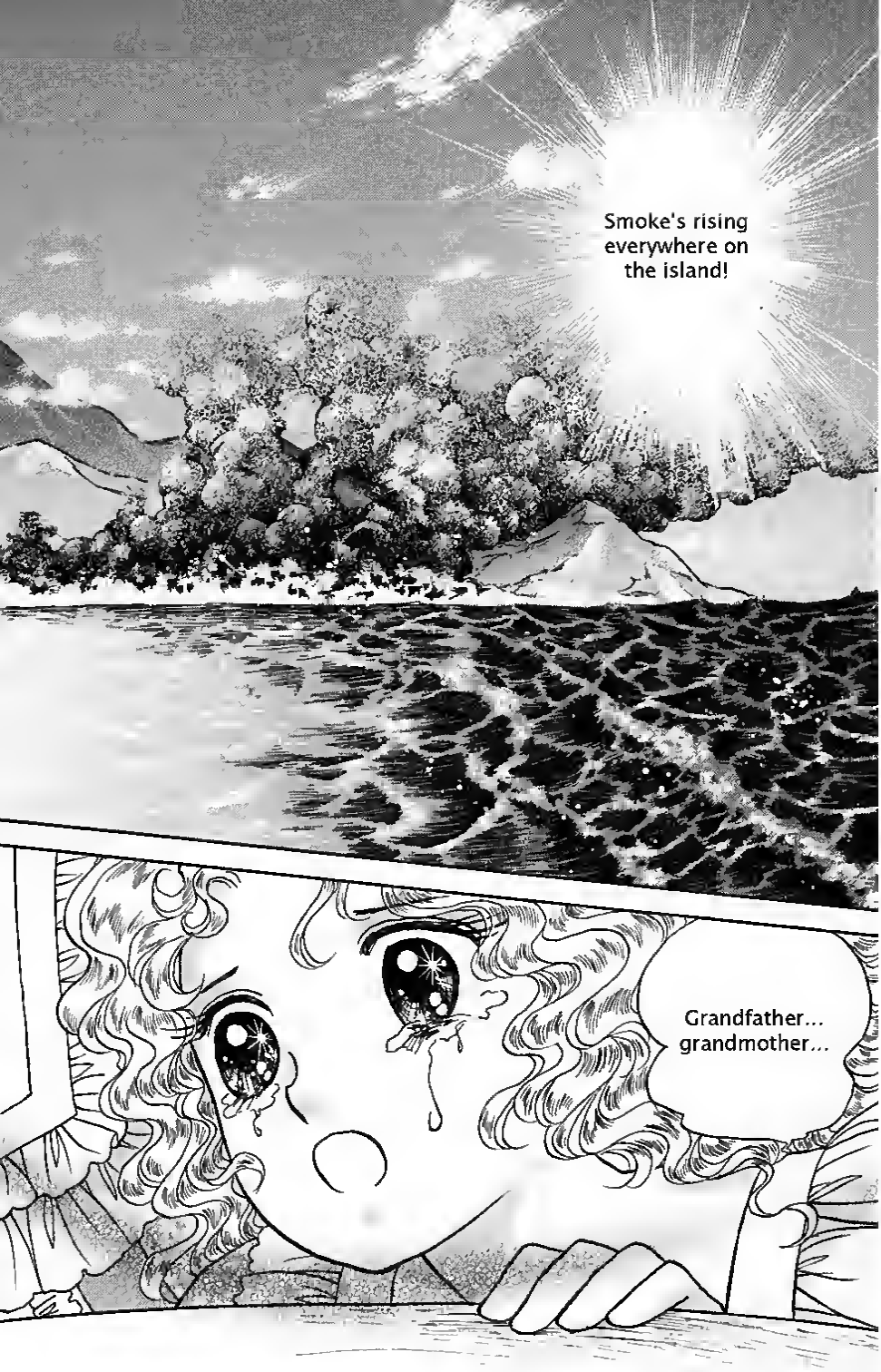
boom
わあああああ
Waaah
We are free! We are equal!
Give land to tenant farmers!
Free the slaves!
おー
Yeah!
Steal the cannon balls! Fire at the occupation forces!
Hurray for the French revolution!

They've taken over the fortress
bang
Whoa
What? ...What's happening?
bang
The same riots are happening in France!
It's a revolu-tion!
Mme. Beauhar-nais! Mlle. Hortense!

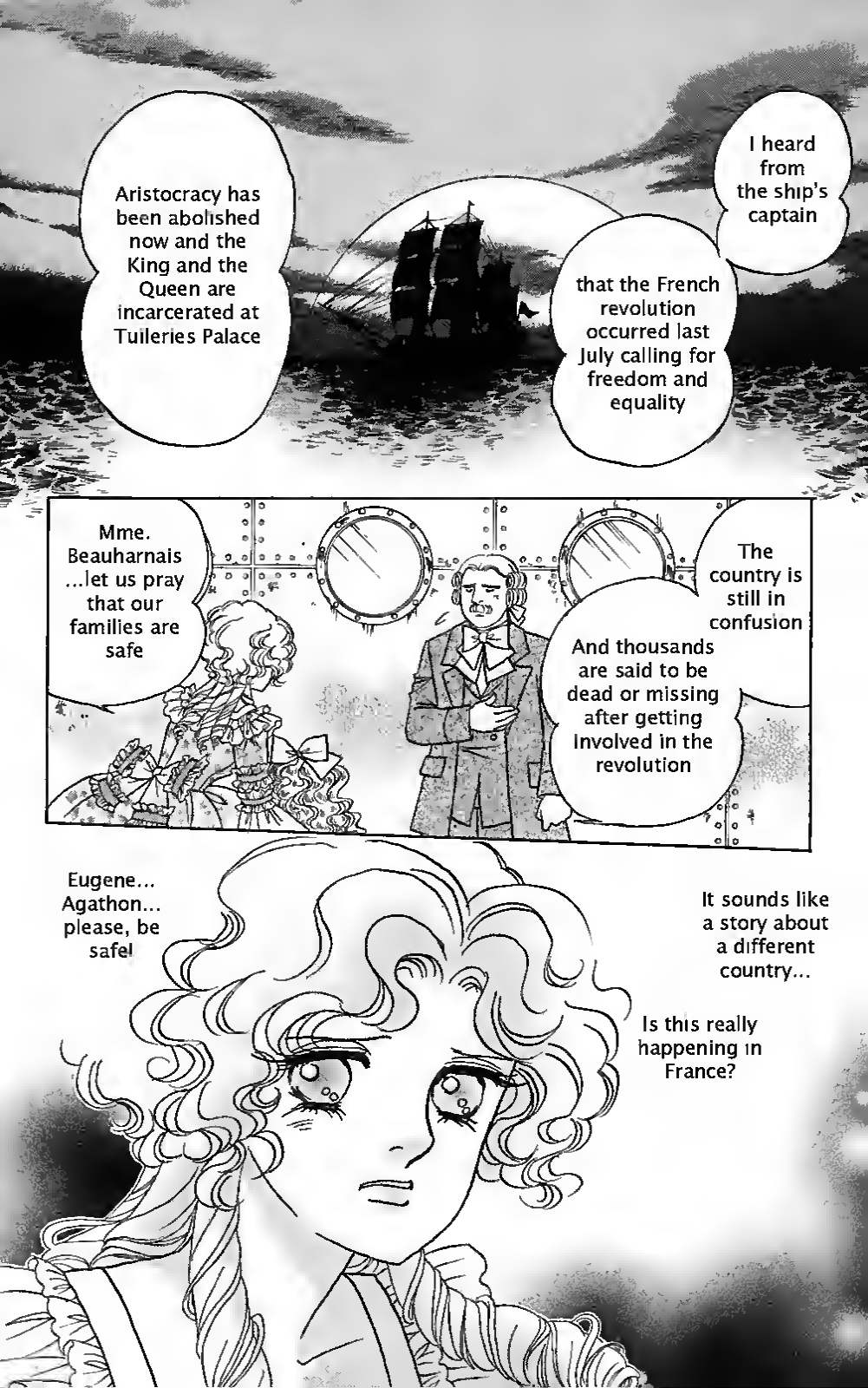
It's the last ship going back to France!
Both of you get on the ship!
A revolution? In France?
What about Eugene? Agathon?
A revolution in France?
That's a promise, Marion
All right...I'll protect Agathon
I promise we'll protect them
The servants like them, they'll be fine!
Yes, leave Master and Madame to us!
Please board the ship, Mademoiselle!

Quickly!
We're leaving port
So suddenly
in such a way
Having to leave my old home like this!

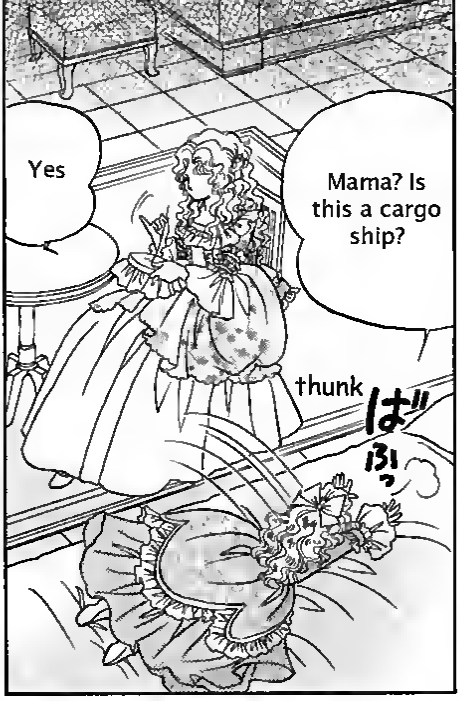
The beautiful island where I grew up...!
Smoke's rising everywhere on the island!
Father... Mother... Marion... please be safe!
Grandfather... grandmother...

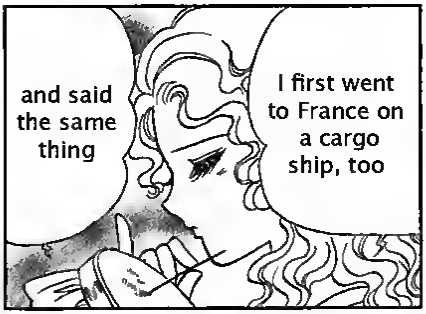

Smoke's rising everywhere on the island!
Grandfather... grandmother...

The beautiful island where I grew up...!
Father... Mother... Marion... please be safe!

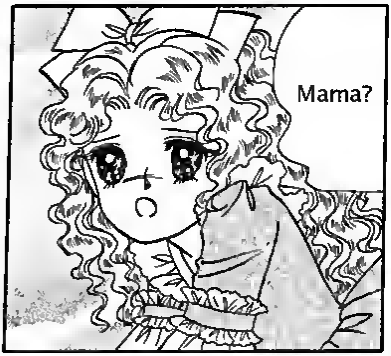

I heard from the ship's captain
that the French revolution occurred last July calling for freedom and equality
Aristocracy has been abolished now and the King and the Queen are incarcerated at Tuileries Palace
Mme. Beauharnais ...let us pray that our families are safe
The country is still in confusion
And thousands are said to be dead or missing after getting involved in the revolution
Eugene... Agathon... please, be safe!
It sounds like a story about a different country...
Is this really happening in France?

It's boring
All it has is a lot of freight and no socializing

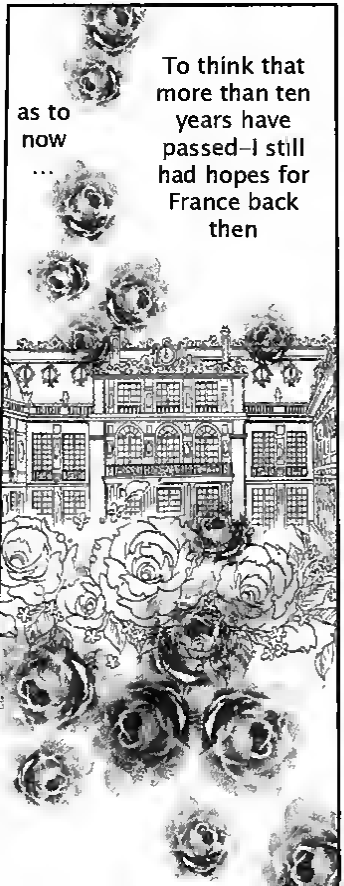

Yes
Mama? Is this a cargo ship?
thunk
ばふっ

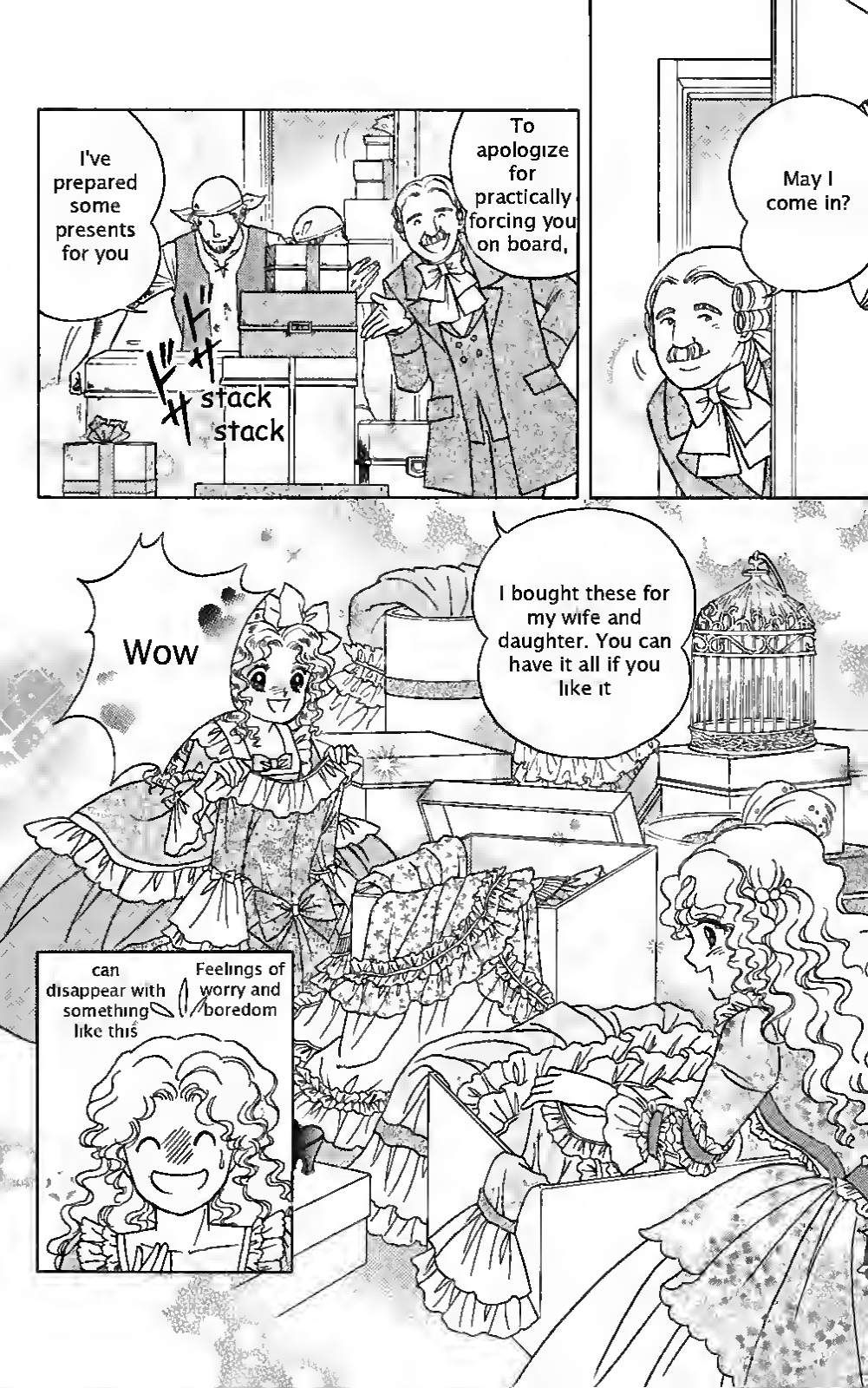

and said the same thing
I first went to France on a cargo ship, too

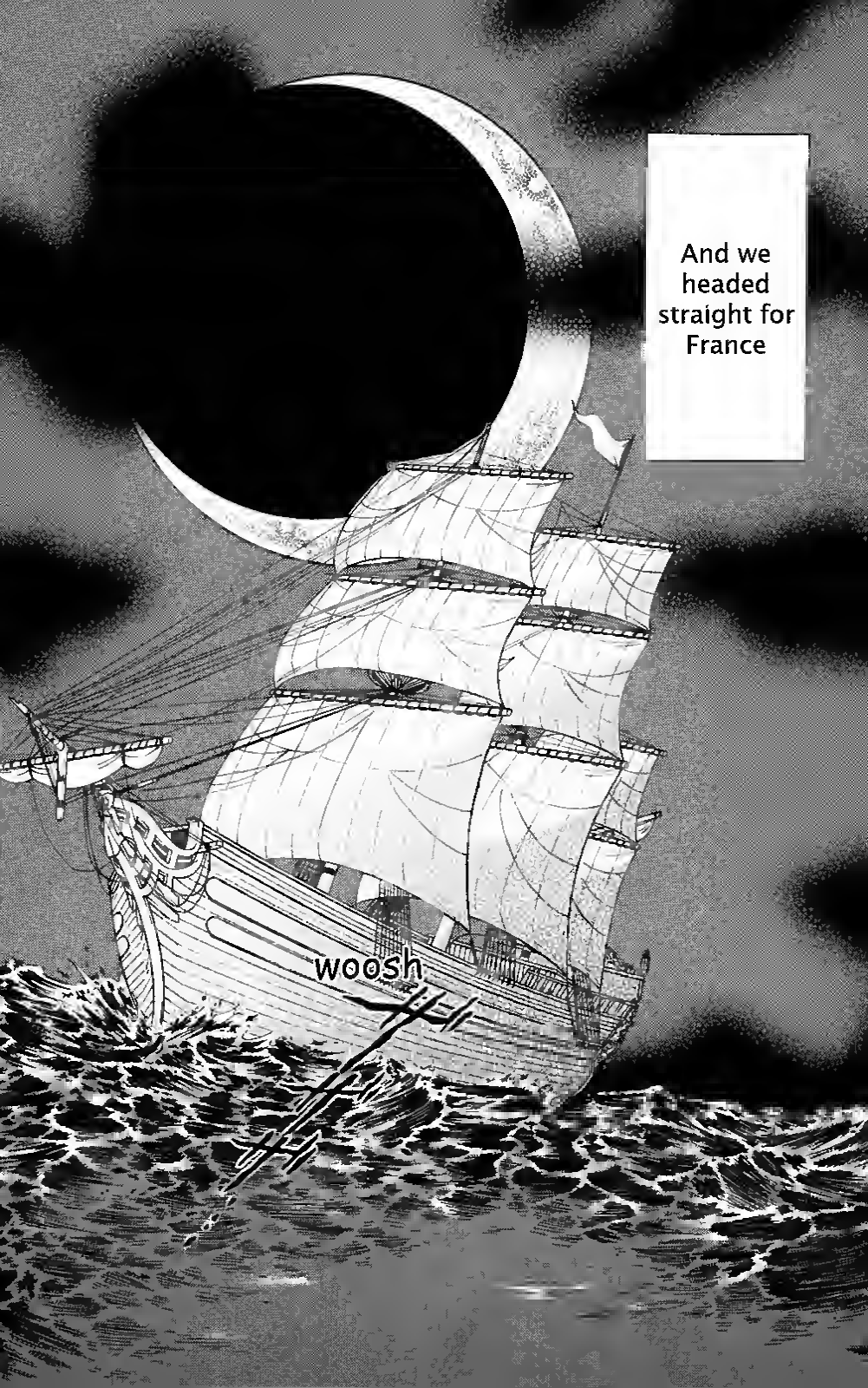
knock knock
コンコン…


Mama?

I can't let her see me like this
smile
にこり


as to now …
To think that more than ten years have passed–I still had hopes for France back then


May I come in?
To apologize for practically forcing you on board,
I've prepared some presents for you
stack stack
I bought these for my wife and daughter. You can have it all if you like it
Wow
Feelings of worry and boredom can disappear with something like this


And we headed straight for France
woosh

I'd like to accompany you to Fontainebleau but I'm concerned about my family
It's dangerous to look fancy in Paris
Why are we dressed like this?

Take care then
We're fine, we really appreciate that you brought us along
thank you so much
stare
stare
stare
stare
...
Mademoi-selle, Mlle. Hortense
Um... well...
Mama... what are we going to do now?
...
Well?

Agathon
Welcome home
We're back, Agathon!
Mlle. Hortense
oh

Waa waa あぁぁん
Mama
Made-moi-selle
Agathon...we were so worried...
Waa waa あぁぁん
Hortense!
Mama!

You said Mama would be coming home today!
Wow, Agathon, you were right!
You've grown
Eugene!
...I hadn't contacted you
How did you know?
You did
So badly like I was going to cry
I was
You were probably calling me

Father's very busy, he's an important person for the revolutionary forces
Yes, he's now the president of the National Assembly
Alexandre? Though he's a noble?
I guess not all nobles are hated by the public
that's a relief
In the peaceful Beauharnais household
there was something I kept to myself
An offer made by Saint Just to join the Jacobins
Saint Just, who wants to kill off all nobles

They were attempting to abandon their country?
The King and the Queen were caught trying to flee overseas and arrested in Varennes!
The National Assembly, June 1791
President Beauharnais
and now the King and Queen are trying to abandon their state? It's the same as inviting enemies to come and take us
England, Austria, even Prussia are considering moving into French territory during the confusion from the revolution
Sir!
Who was with the King?
What will happen to France?
Who will protect her?

Max? What do you think of this announcement on behalf of our party?
It's probably true since the national assembly's saying so
It says the King and Queen had just been tempted by Breteuil and his accomplice
Saint Just, it's fine if we're alone, but otherwise I'm Maximilien de Robespierre
Don't call me Max
Hm...so the presi-dent's a noble
Vicompte Alexandre Beau-harnais
They're obviously protec-ting the King
Who was the president of the national assembly again?

I have become a member of the National Assembly. I think of you dearly as a friend. Join the Jacobins. Please respond to me.
Your friend, Louis
August 1792
Could you keep my father-in-law company, Agathon?
Alexandre's rejected the post of Minister of the Army and accepted a position as commander in chief of the Army of the Rhine
Father keeps talking about that
I'd like to go
Right! Now go and listen to Father-in-law talk about it
So Master chose the military over politics

Tried the King in December 1792
Executed Louis XVI on January 21, 1793
and his queen, Marie Antoinette on October 16 that year
The Jacobins that Louis belonged to, with Robespierre as its focus, had huge public support
It began to make official use of the guillotine
...Have you met them, Mademoiselle?
How terrible
sob
sob
Waa
We saw them once, remember? What a way to die!

We should arrest and execute him immediately!
He's counter-revolutionary
Is this in retaliation for our execution of the king?
Commander Alexandre was defeated by the Austria-Prussia-English forces in the Rhine
Only when we eliminate all nobility will this country be reborn
New buds will not bloom unless we eliminate all bad seeds
As with God, it is a miracle to discover you!
You are wonderful, Saint Just

...Why?
...He's being... executed?
The Reign of Terror had begun
Alexandre a counterrevolutionary? He's been arrested?
No!
No
Made-moiselle!
Waa waa
I'm going to save him!
I...

To them you are Madame Beauharnais
It's too dangerous!
He is not a counter-revolutionary!
I'm going to the National Convention
If they see Master as a counter-revolutionary they'll see you as the same
This is too sad!
sob
sob
Let me go!
I'll go with you then
Mademoiselle..

A person by the name of Agathon would like to see you, sir
Let him through
Excuse me
click
My friend ...
I would like to ask you a favor today. This is Mme. Beauharnais, my mistress
.....

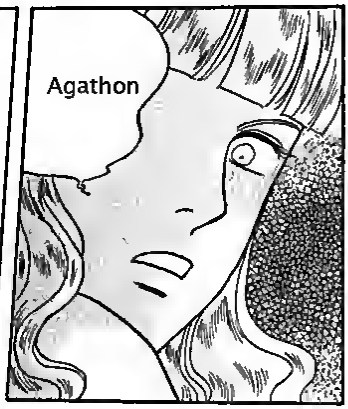
Alexandre is innocent! Please let him go
Beauhar-nais? I've heard that name before
clatter
snap
Arrest this woman! She's a counterrevolu-tionary!

Louis!
wack
Agathon!

Take care of the children, please!
Agathon!
Agathon!

Humph
All nobles can die!
slam
Aga ...the
That woman's hat
Giggle giggle
She won't be needing this much longer

Don't touch me!

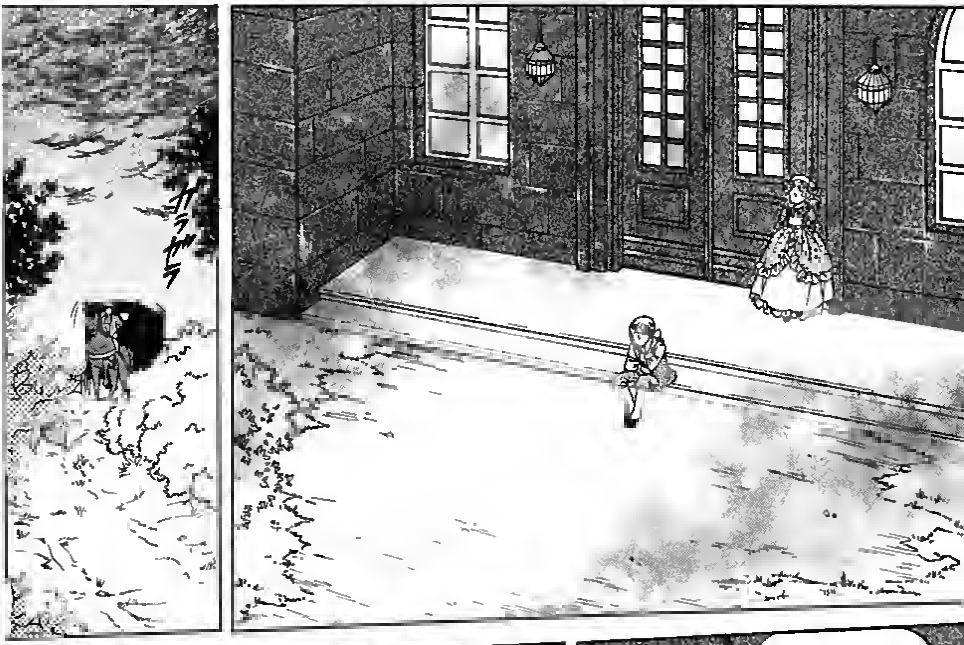

Agathon

I'll have you tended to right away
Don't move! The bleeding'll get worse

Why did I bring Mademoiselle to a place like this?
If only I'd stopped her, whatever it took
Don't... touch me!
Agathon...
You...are not... a friend

clang
Mr. Saint Just
Hey!
Take him there
There should be a carriage waiting outside
I thought he brought that woman to me as a show of his friendship
I said take him to the carriage
Isn't he a counter-revolu-tionary as well?

he truly hates me
Those eyes...
Both Beauharnais will be sent to the guillotine
Good-bye, friend
And you'll hate me as much as you love that woman
And that would suit me fine
Giggle giggle


ガラガラ

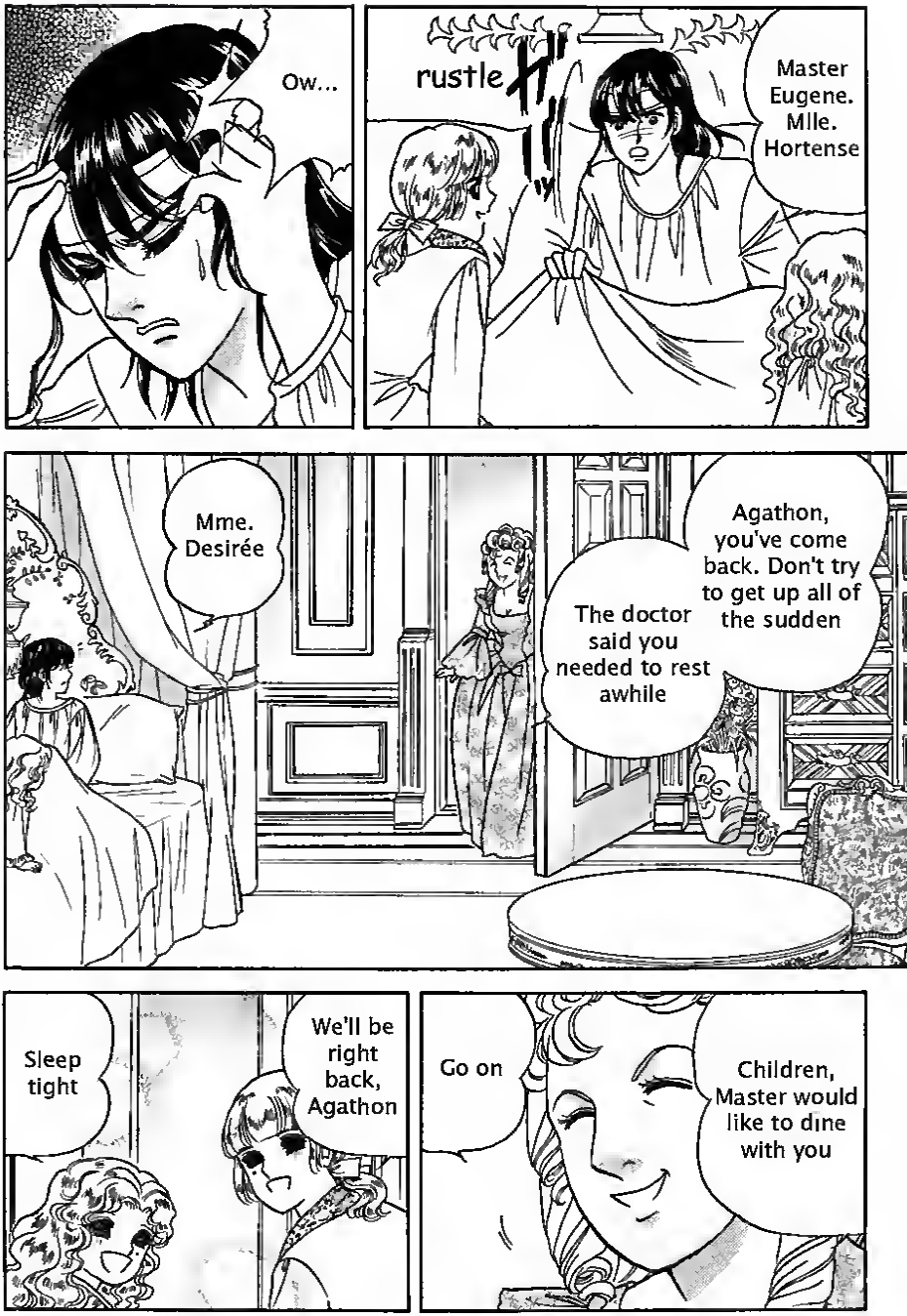
Welcome back

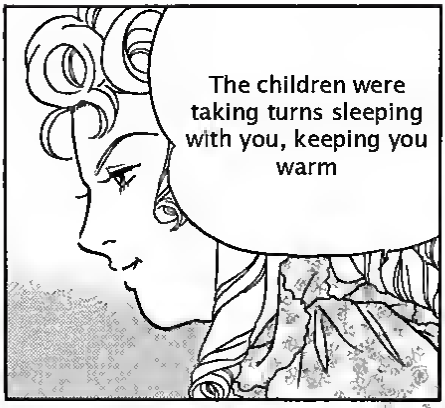
It's Mama and Agathon! They're back!

Agathon!
Agathon is going to die
Quick, call the doctor
Agathon!
Where's Mama?
Agathon!
Don't die!

Where should I go, Mademoiselle?
It's cold and dark here
Mademoiselle
Go on home
Agathon... good bye
Please don't leave me
My home is in your heart
I'm going with Alexandre
I'm not there anymore, Agathon

Aga-thon!
Aga-thon ...
No! I won't let you!
Never seeing you again?
The doctor said you'll be ok if you wake up
He opened his eyes!
I never even imagined!

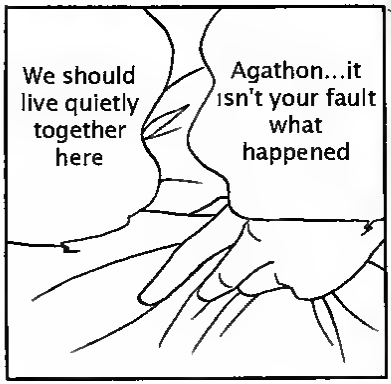

Ow...
rustle
Master Eugene. Mlle. Hortense
Mme. Desirée
The doctor said you needed to rest awhile
Agathon, you've come back. Don't try to get up all of the sudden
Sleep tight
We'll be right back, Agathon
Go on
Children, Master would like to dine with you


The children were taking turns sleeping with you, keeping you warm

You were unconscious for three days
now get back in bed

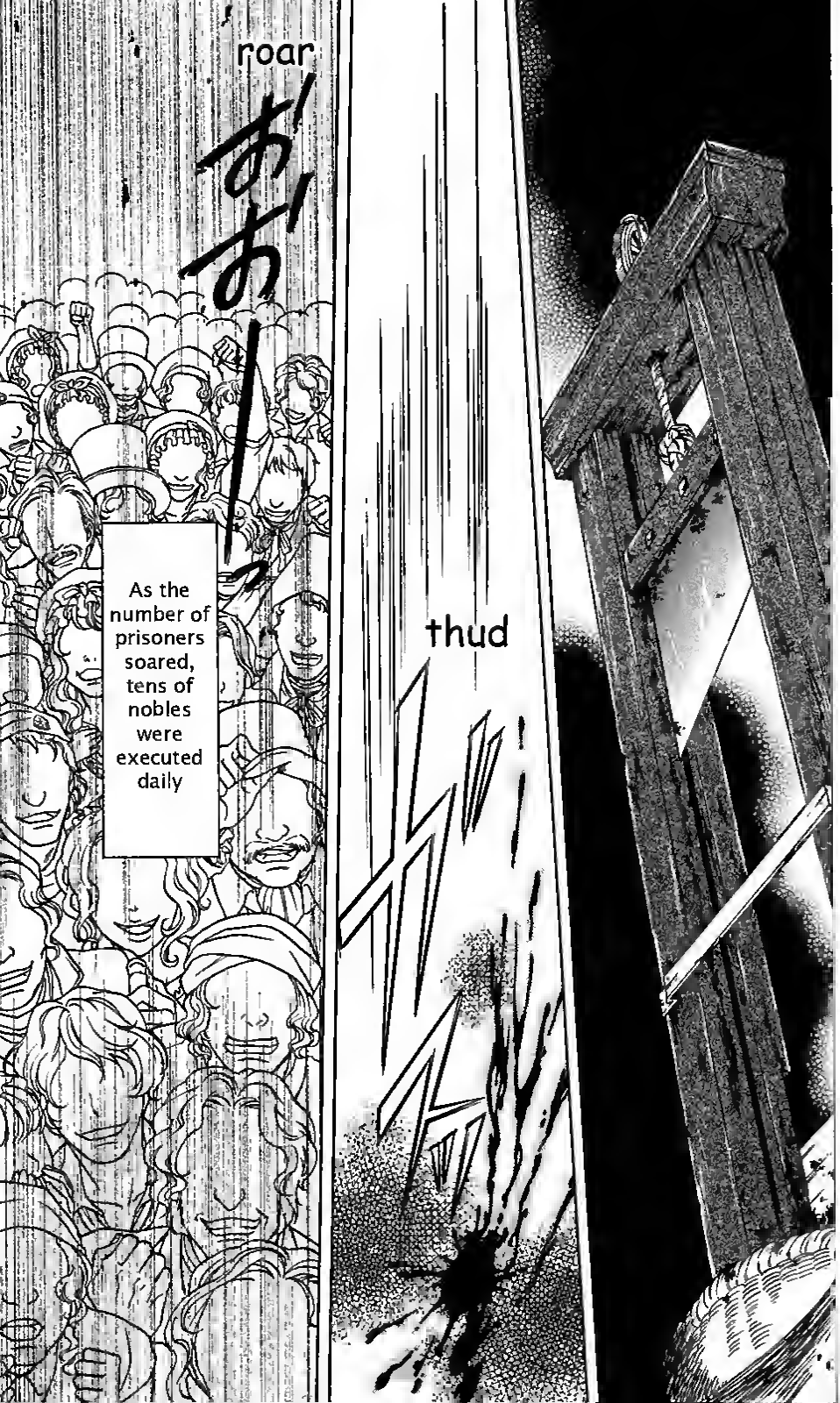
You were moaning and crying...

calling Rose's name


We should live quietly together here
Agathon...it isn't your fault what happened

Like family

Executions take place in the order that people are captured
I told the children that Alexandre and Rose have gone on a trip
Thank you, Mme. Desirée
...Yes Madam
There's still time
Mademoiselle and Master Alexandre have only just been captured
I'll save you if it means my life!
I swear I'll come and save you, Mademoiselle!


roar
おお!
As the number of prisoners soared, tens of nobles were executed daily
thud
ガシャ

Rose had been held in the Carmes prison
sob
sob
Aga-thon...
sob
sob
waa
I'm sorry Agathon
Please don't die
waa
As if you'd died...!
oh...
It's my fault what happened to you
Bleeding so badly...you were still as if you'd died
sob
sob

creak
Rose?
Is that you?
Ale-xandre!
Rose!
I heard from the guard
that you were captured trying to save me!

I could never leave a friend in need alone
I couldn't not do anything
I didn't know you had such strong feelings for me. .
Rose!
ギュッ
hug
...
?
?
I hadn't really seen the real you
That's the way you are
?
Oh... that's it

I don't know how much time I have left...
Rose, I'm grateful to have met you
but let's spend our remaining time here together
as true friends
thump
Come, I'll show you around
Wasn't the door locked?
How did you get in here?
There aren't any locks
laugh
What do you mean, spend time together
in such a dark, cramped, filthy...prison room
thump
thump
thump

The revolutionists are lax, they haven't split up the men and women
This is a prison?
and there are private rooms like the one you were in
We're free to explore relationships

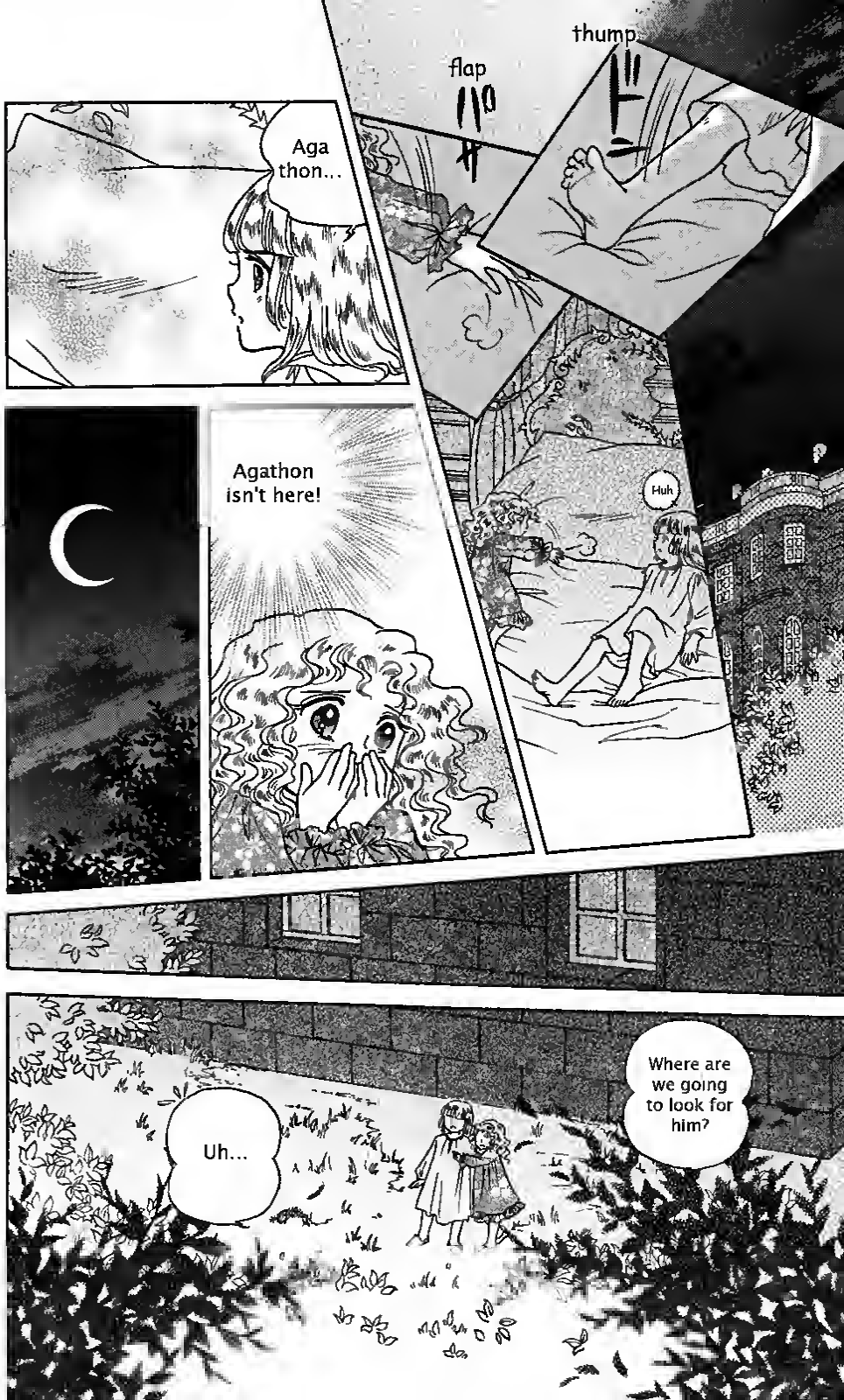
You haven't changed at all
How inappropriate!
Just kidding
...
All the women come to me when their husbands are executed
Rose Beauharnais
Yes, this is me
コホン
ah-hem
You haven't changed, either
laugh
This is me, Alexandre Beauharnais
Nope, not at all
You look like you're enjoying yourselves. May i join you?
あはは
Ha ha ha
That's fine
Ha ha ha

This is Theresia Cavareuse. She's a normal citizen
Hey Theresia
Hello, I'm Alexandre's ex-wife
She's a good woman who was unluckily captured like you were
The revolutionists capture people like you, besides nobles?
I think that's why I ended up here
I'm Jean-Lambert Tallien's lover-he's a rival of Robespierre

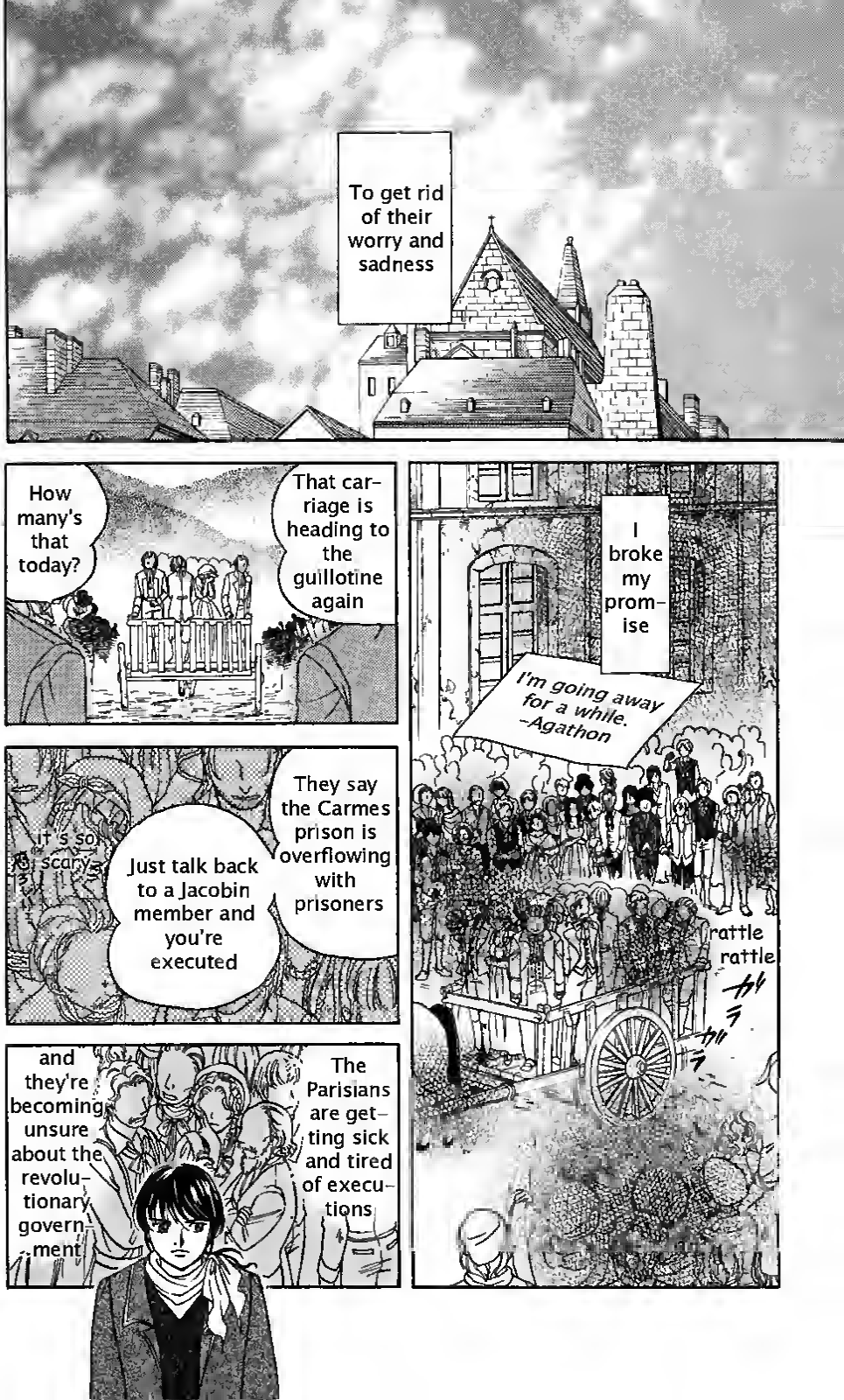
Okay, I'll do as my ex-wife says
Go ahead, don't let me keep you
Come and join us, Alexandre
And you help the men cope with their fears?
yap
yap
yap
Alexandre... he helps ease our fears of death
Theresia...
I wanted us to be friends since I first saw you
It's you and your appeal, Rose
They've been watching you heatedly, you know

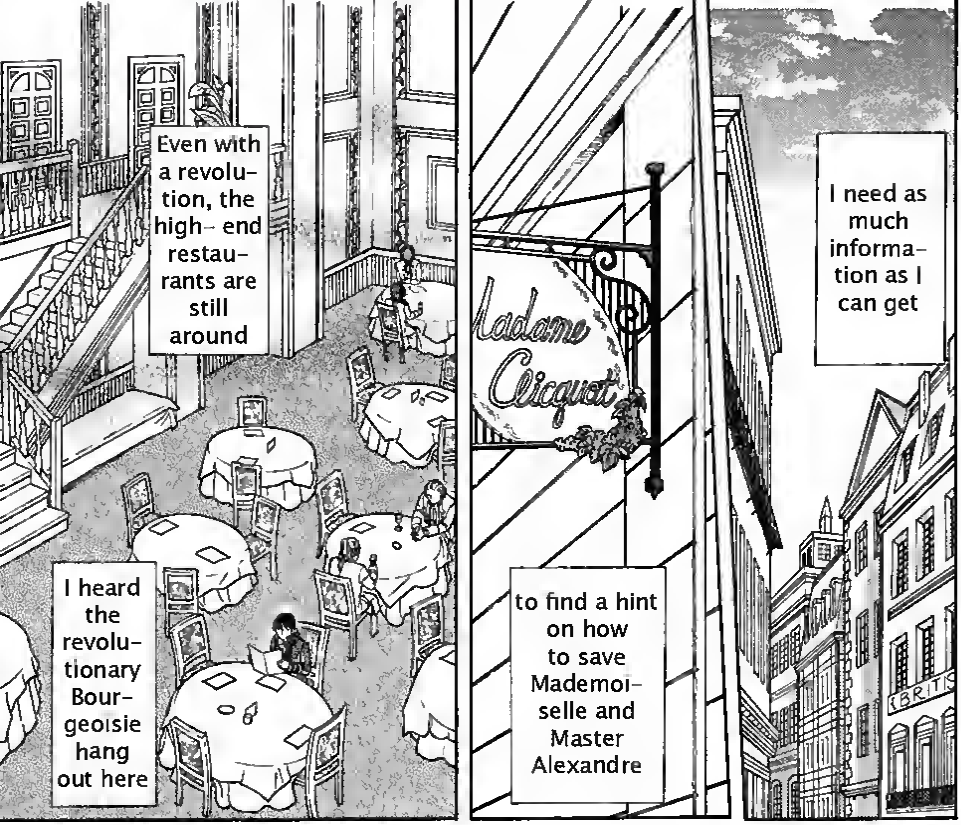
The Carmes prison was filled with uncertainty
Not knowing when you would be executed and attempting madly to forget about it
It was a salon for nobles that had a very strange mood

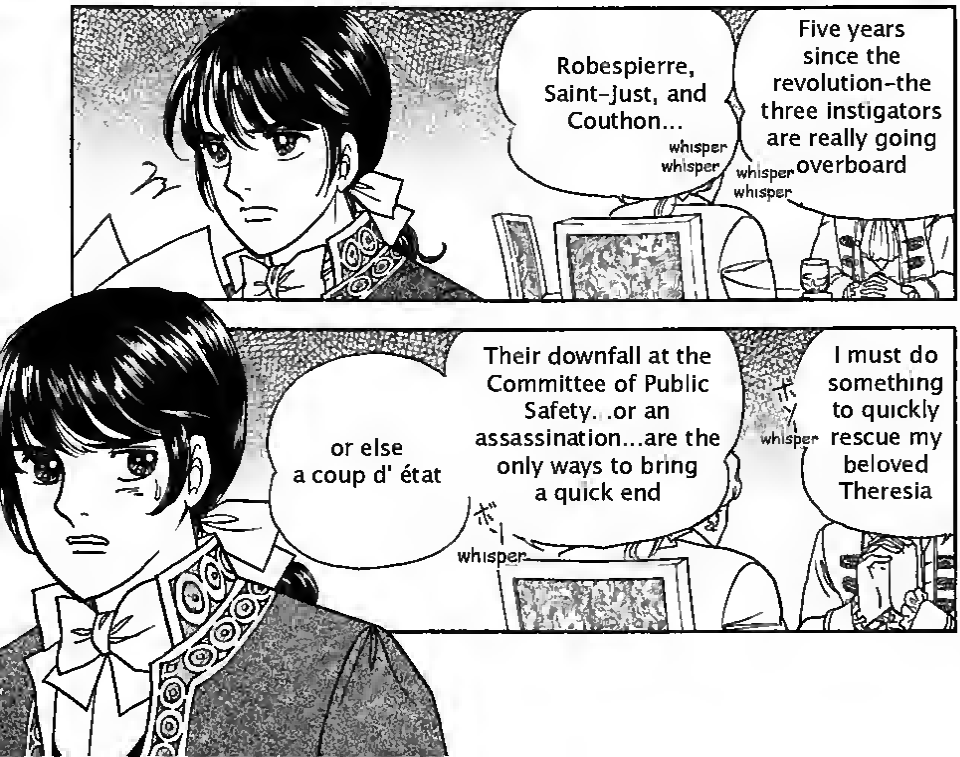
There-
sia, ten
years my
junior,
says the
same thing
each day
He will
surely come
and rescue
me
Tallien was
soon to leave
his wife and
marry me
As for me,
I-
I pray
every day
that
Agathon is
safe
and protect
Eugene and
Hortense for me!
Please, Agathon,
be safe


thump
flap
Aga thon...
Huh
Agathon isn't here!
Where are we going to look for him?
Uh...

We woke up and you weren't there
We were looking for you
What are you doing at this hour?
eek
Don't leave us Agathon. Stay with us forever
I'm much better thanks to you two
so I went for a swim in the lake
They're clinging to me, shaking from sadness and worry
Master Eugene, Mlle. Hortense, I won't go anywhere. I promise
Promise us!
Don't go on a trip without telling us like Mama and Papa

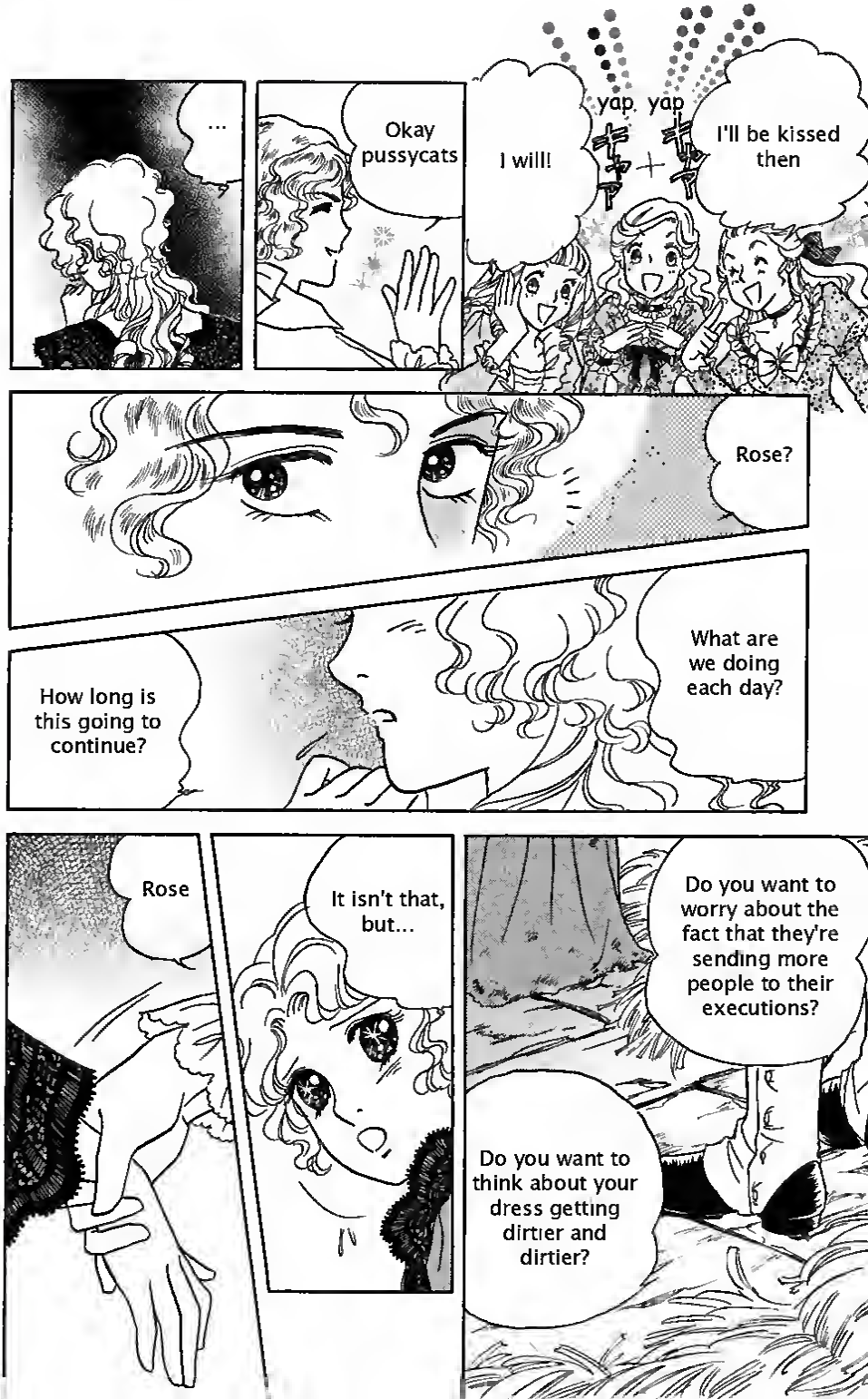

To get rid of their worry and sadness
How many's that today?
That carriage is heading to the guillotine again
I broke my promise
I'm going away for a while. -Agathon
rattle rattle
They say the Carmes prison is overflowing with prisoners
Just talk back to a Jacobin member and you're executed
It's so scary
The Parisians are getting sick and tired of executions
and they're becoming unsure about the revolutionary government


Even with a revolution, the high-end restaurants are still around
I heard the revolutionary Bourgeoisie hang out here
Madame Clicquot
I need as much information as I can get
to find a hint on how to save Mademoiselle and Master Alexandre


Robespierre, Saint-Just, and Couthon...
whisper whisper
Five years since the revolution-the three instigators are really going overboard
whisper whisper
or else a coup d' état
Their downfall at the Committee of Public Safety. . .or an assassination...are the only ways to bring a quick end
whisper
I must do something to quickly rescue my beloved Theresia
whisper

I'll come back later
Sorry, I seem to have forgotten my wallet
?
flap flap flap
flap
Your order, sir?
A coup d' état?
clomp,
clomp
Who were those men?
If there's a coup d' état then Mademoiselle and Master will both be freed!
Robespierre's reign of terror is definitely being pressured!

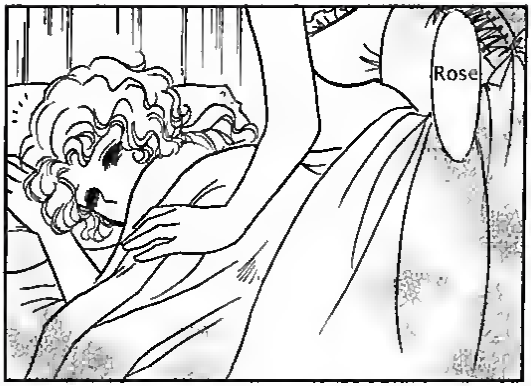
Ha ha ha...
あはは...
Ho ho ho
ほほほ
bump
Ha ha ha...
はは...
Ha ha ha
あはは...
Over here, Rose
Ale-xandre?
Guess who?
No thanks
あはは Ha ha ha
I'll reward you with a kiss
Right!

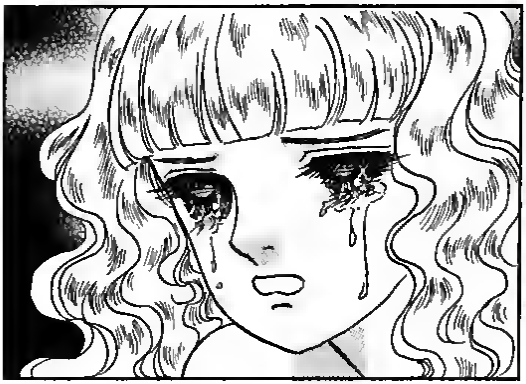

...
Okay pussycats
I will!
yap, yap
I'll be kissed then
Rose?
What are we doing each day?
How long is this going to continue?
Rose
It isn't that, but...
Do you want to worry about the fact that they're sending more people to their executions?
Do you want to think about your dress getting dirtier and dirtier?

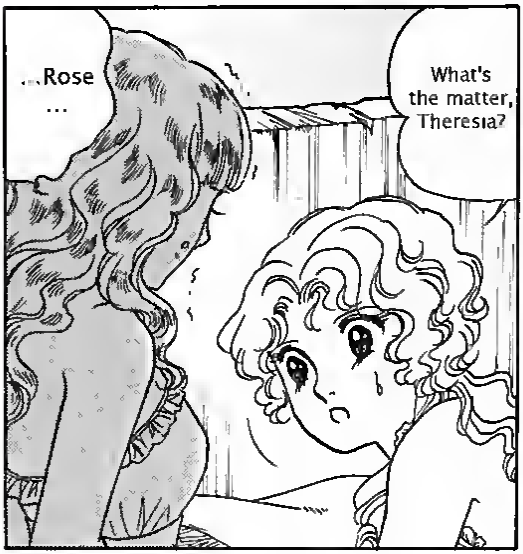
Close your eyes, don't think about anything
Kisses and hugs, and carefree games are proof that we're alive
Feel the warmth of my body?
Hear my heart-beat?
Thank you, you're right. You're kind, Alexandre
Just think about these things and live through today, tomorrow, and the day after...
Your silly words...
are pretty comforting here
laugh
Yes, I'm a strong military man like a lion, kind to ladies like a puff of cotton, and my heart's red like the blood of a pigeon

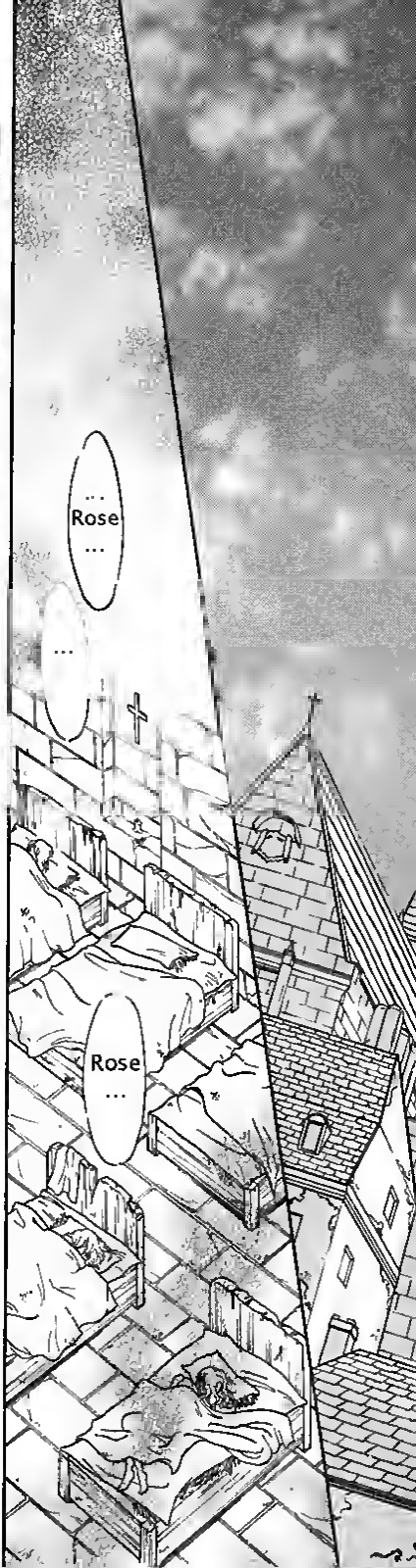
I'm sorry I didn't realize earlier
Rose, you have such a nice smile
I'll forgive you if you've noticed
I realized too that Eugene and Hortense look like you

Hortense is a beauty so hundreds will come asking for her hand
What a doting father
Eugene has the talent to become a superb military man
That hurts, Alexandre
Ha ha ha
あはは…
squeeze
ギュッ
Let's seal that with a hug
Let's watch their futures together
Even if we aren't married


Rose

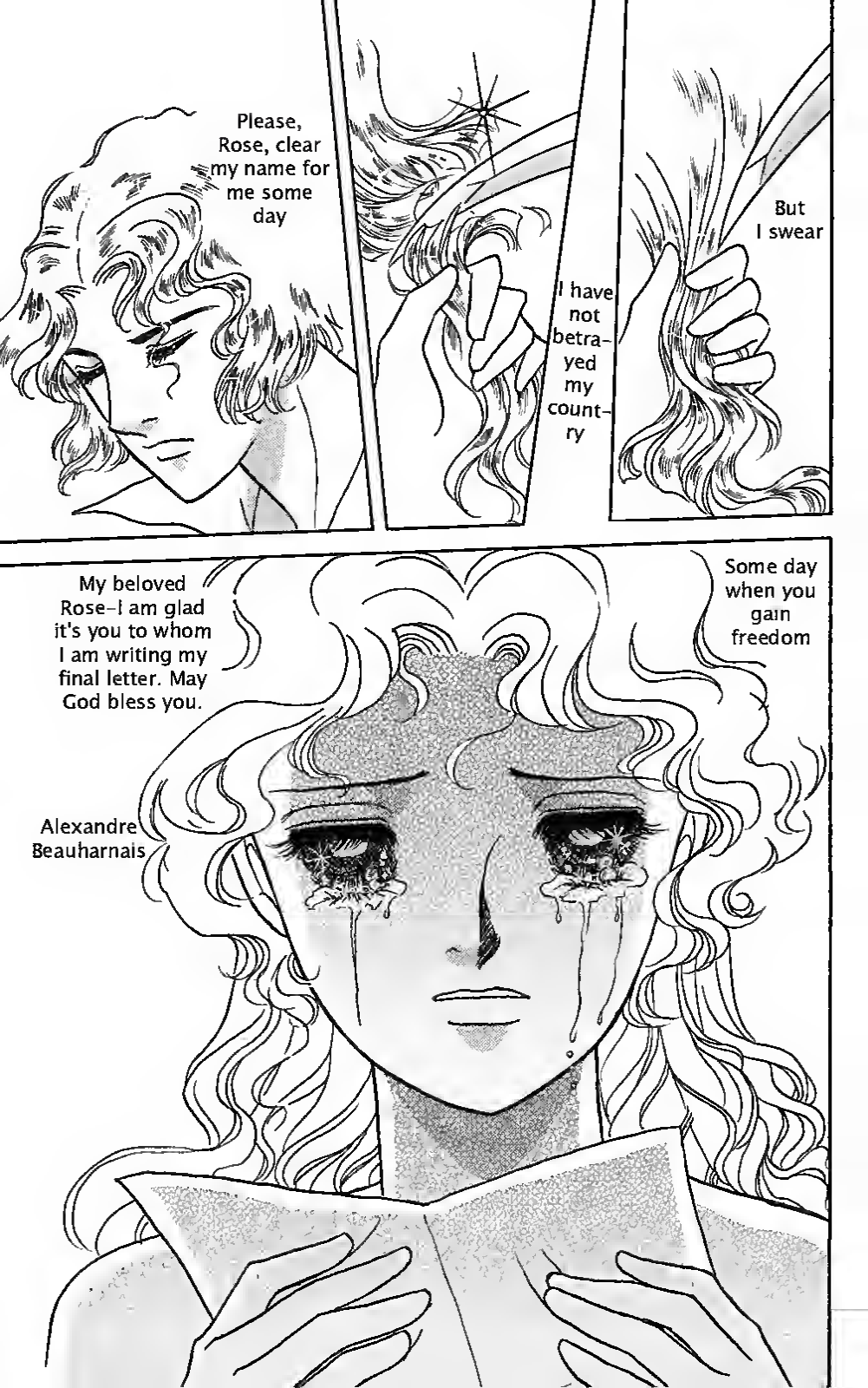



...Rose
...
What's the matter, Theresia?

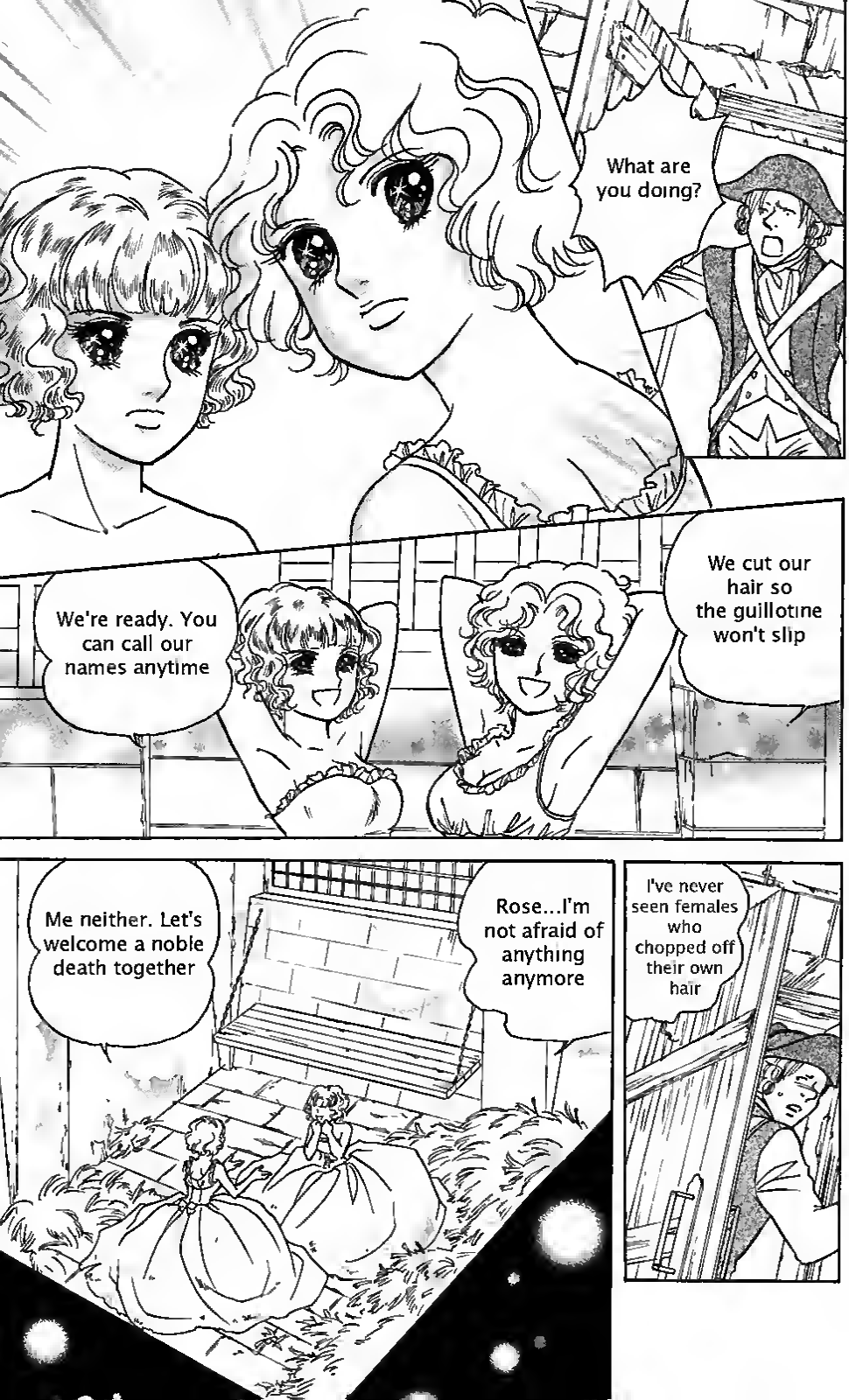

...
Rose
...
...
Rose
...

...Ale-
xandre?
Once they take you to the Conciergerie ...you're executed the next day...
They took 49 people to the Conciergerie this morning... Alexandre was among them...
It's a letter he wrote you...
The guard gave me this
A.. letter...
My dear Rose
I don't have much time-left
I hear footsteps approaching. They'll soon be calling my name
I was happy being with you during my fiinal days

There is nothing sadder than having to die while my country thinks of me as a traitor.
I loved France.
Though I may not have been an ideal husband, we had been married
To break loose the steel chains that have long bound our people we cannot afford to overlook any doubts
I have lived in the military so it's clear that this revolution has just begun
Mine will be a necessity within such a history
Even if it means putting innocent people on trial by mistake at times


Please, Rose, clear my name for me some day
I have not betra-yed my count-ry
But I swear
My beloved Rose-I am glad it's you to whom I am writing my final letter. May God bless you.
Alexandre Beauharnais
Some day when you gain freedom

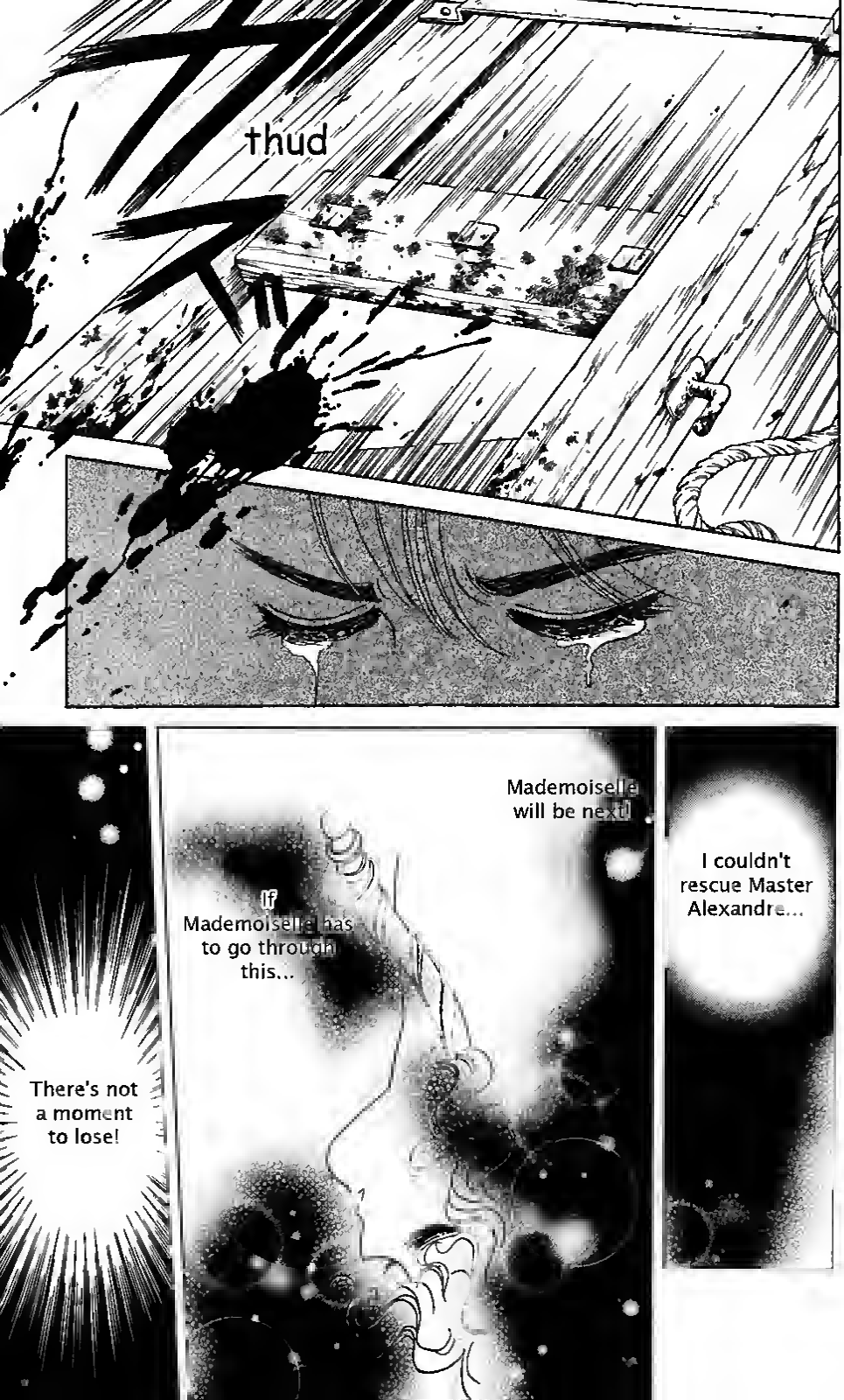
It was around the same time Alexandre was captured
...Rose...I was captured before you were
It'll be my turn tomorrow
I don't have time to clear your name, either
Alexandre... my dear Alexandre...
Let's take it to the private room and make a vow together
You had a small knife
I won't leave you until we're on the guillotine!
Theresia...I'll go with you if your name is called
...Rose...

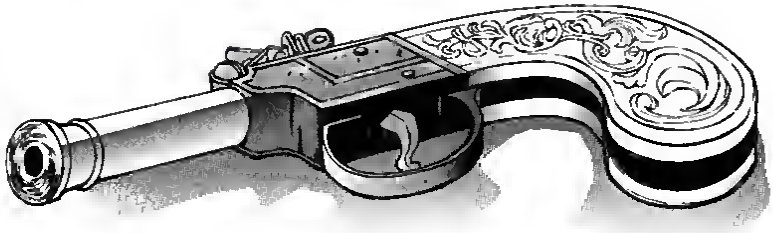

What are you doing?
We cut our hair so the guillotine won't slip
We're ready. You can call our names anytime
I've never seen females who chopped off their own hair
Rose...I'm not afraid of anything anymore
Me neither. Let's welcome a noble death together

La Gullatine
La Gullatine
July 23, 1794
Obviously named after the guillo-tine...
La Gullatine
A list of those being executed, a menu? How hideous
One's for food, the other's a program listing today's behea-dings
They have two menus here
heh heh
Everyone's out watching the beheading. I'd like someone to talk to
Hey mister, how'bout a drink?
No thanks ...

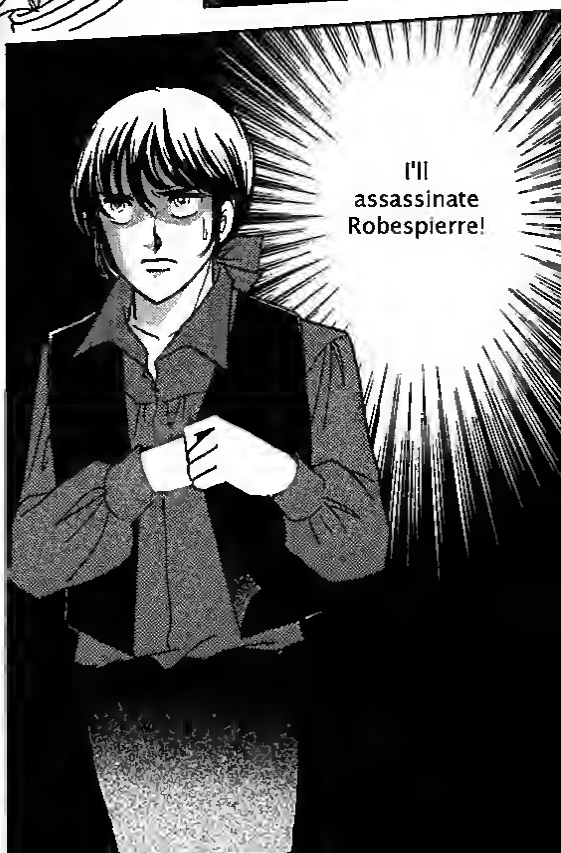
Master
lexandre
It says today's highlight's Marquis Alexandre Beauharnais
I prefer watching women being beheaded
I can't move my feet!
They feel frozen numb
roar
わあああ
roar
わあああ

Try drinking the holy blood of a beautiful martyr!
rustle
Wha what?
rustle
Execution-lovers!
his voice...!
kill him
do it
I can distinctly hear Master Alexandre's voice out of the commotion!


thud
There's not a moment to lose!
If Mademoiselle has to go through this...
Mademoiselle will be next!
I couldn't rescue Master Alexandre...



Can you do it?
Agathon...T here will be times when you have to kill to pro-tect...


I'll assassinate Robespierre!

The Reign of Terror is taking a toll on everyone...but there's no coup d'état and the executions continue
Soldiers!
hut-two
The National Convention's said to have issued warrants for the arrest of Robespierre, Saint Just, and three others
but I heard they were immediately released and Robespierre's back in office
crash
Oops
Wow
Settle down! Don't act guilty
clench
They're coming from this direction, too
strut strut

and wasn't watching where I was going
Sorry! I was focusing on following the soldiers
Here
This is pretty dainty for a gun

if you're going to use that, do it at close range
Oh, by the way
...
Hey, wait! Don't leave your commander behind
hut-two, hut-two
rustle
What information does he have?
I had a feeling that we would be meeting again
As brief as our encounter was, I was intrigued by the man
Hey, I said don't leave your commander
hut-two, hut-two

I will definitely assassinate Robespierre!
This was my first time to meet Napoleon Bonaparte
Do it at close range
Josephine the French Rose
End of Part II

Josephine the French Rose 2

Manga art by Yumiko Igarashi
Story Kaoru Ochiai

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